FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq War

A military announcement broadcast by Tehran radio claimed further successes for the Iranian offensive in the Meymak area of Ilam Province, asserting that the Iranians "smashed" several brigades and battalions of Iraq's II Army Corps, killing and capturing hundreds of men and liberating more than 50 km of Iranian territory. However, the Iraqi military command maintained that its II Army Corps repulsed and destroyed the attack, striking powerfully at the "retreating" enemy and killing over 900 Iranians, according to a communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi helicopters directed "devastating" strikes against Iranian troop concentrations in the area, the statement added. As for the southern front, the Iraqi communique stated that Iraqi troops killed 250 Iranians in their 17 October raid against positions east of Basra. However, an Iranian communique carried by Tehran radio reaffirmed Iran's claim to have crushed the Iraqi raid, asserting that 100 Iraqis were killed and 40 were captured. Earlier, a military statement broadcast by Tehran radio announced the death of an Iranian commander, Brigadier General Hasan Aqarehparast.

Commenting on the military situation, Baghdad radio warned Iran that its new offensive will be an "utter fiasco." The Iranians are deluded "if they believe that the central sector is their opportunity, or even if they believe that their attack will divert Iraqi forces to this sector at the expense of other areas," the radio contended.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Majlis rejected Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's nominee for the post of defense minister, IRNA reported. Musavi's candidate, Colonel Farrokh 'Azimi-E'temadi, failed to win an overall majority. In another development, KYODO confirmed that Japanese workers have evacuated the petrochemical plant at Bandar-e Khomeyni.

Iraq-USSR

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Moscow on 18 October and began talks with his Soviet counterpart Andrey Gromyko the following day, TASS reported. Baghdad radio said the talks will cover all aspects of bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, and the continued Iranian "aggression" against Iraq.

Syria-USSR

President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus after concluding a "cordial working visit" to the USSR during which he held "successful" talks with President Konstantin Chernenko and other Soviet leaders, Damascus radio reported. The two sides discussed Soviet military assistance to Syria and made "decisions" in this regard, according to a joint statement on the talks broadcast by the radio. The Syrian and Soviet leaders condemned U.S. and Israeli policies in the Middle East, particularly the attempts to divide the Arabs through "separate deals," the "terrorist practices, provocations, and pressures" against Lebanon, and the efforts of the United States to increase its military presence in the Gulf and the Red Sea. The two sides also "noted broad coincidences" in views on international issues, the statement added. They considered that personal meetings between the two leaders are an "important and useful" method of developing bilateral relations, the statement said, and Chernenko "gratefullyaccepted" Al-Asad's invitation to visit Syria.

On the Palestinian issue, the joint statement said the Syrian and Soviet leaders exchanged "detailed ideas" about the Palestinian resistance, adding that Syria and the USSR believe in overcoming the differences within the PLO on the basis of a nationalist, progressive, and anti-imperialist course. However, a TASS report on the communique did not mention this reference to the PLO.

While Syrian papers cited by Damascus radio stressed the "strategic" importance of Al-Asad's visit, KUNA again noted "indications" that his visit was extended for 1 day because of the failure of the two sides to reach a formula for "strategic cooperation."

Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres still believes that Israel must retain the option of a partial unilateral withdrawal from the western and central sectors of Lebanon if Syria refuses to reach an agreement with the Israelis, an Israeli Government source disclosed in remarks cited by IDF radio. The source also stated that Israel regards UNIFIL as the main pillar for security arrangements in southern Lebanon and views the role of the army of southern Lebanon as "marginal." The difference between this position and that outlined in the official statement issued on 17 October "evidently reflects a difference in the assessment and emphasis between the prime minister's office and the foreign and defense ministries," the radio added.

As for the UNIFIL commander's proposal to sponsor Israeli-Lebanese talks on security arrangements, both IDF and Jerusalem radio said Israel will agree to hold such talks although it does not want UN officials to preside over the meetings. Israel has also rejected Lebanon's demand that the talks be held in the framework of the 1949 Armistice Commission, according to the radios. In Beirut, the director of the UN Information Office confirmed that Lebanon has not yet officially replied to the UNIFIL commander's proposal, Beirut radio noted.

PLO

Algeria will not host the PNC session before "a comprehensive agreement is reached between all Palestinian revolutionary factions," Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha stated in remarks reported by KUNA following a recent meeting between Algerian officials and a National Alliance delegation.

OPEC

In view of the "critical situation" in the world oil market, OPEC oil ministers will meet in Geneva on 29 October to consider ways to defend the present OPEC price structure, an OPEC spokesman announced in a statement reported by OPECNA. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) stated that the Abu Dhabi Government has not made any decision to adjust ADNOC's prices, according to WAKH. The Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* had earlier disclosed that Abu Dhabi was expected to shelve the UAE oil minister's call for a price cut in ADNOC's light crude because of fears that such a move would trigger a chain reaction. However, Nigeria, another OPEC member, followed the British and Norwegian price cuts by announcing a price reduction of $2 per barrel in Nigerian Bonny Light, AFP reported.

Pakistan

Three universities have been closed in Sind Province following the death of five students in a clash with police, Delhi radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Kuwaiti Paper on Syrian-Soviet Talks, PLO
GF181930 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Oct 84 pp 1, 20

[Al-QABAS dispatch from Paris]

[Text] Arab and European sources in Paris have told *AL-QABAS* important information about the visit of President Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet Union in addition to his talks with President Konstantin Chernenko and other Soviet officials. These sources said that the Soviet officials asked the Syrian president to intercede officially with Iran in order to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. They also exerted efforts in order to attain a reconciliation between Syria and the PLO leadership.

In return, President Hafiz al-Asad asked the Soviet officials to provide clarifications from the Soviet leaders on their positions toward the recent developments in the Middle East, foremost of which is the Egyptian-Jordanian rapproachement.

These sources told *AL-QABAS* the following details on Al-Asad'stalks in Moscow:

1. On the Iraqi-Iranian war: as for this issue, *AL-QABAS* learned that an understanding was reached between the Americans and the Soviets during the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to the United States and during his talks with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. This understanding stresses in the first phase the need to exert all efforts in order to contain this war and to prevent its expansion to the Gulf countries. An agreement was reached, in the second phase, between Washington and Moscow so that both sides will make attempts to end this war.

From this premise, the Soviet officials asked President al-Asad, during his current visit to Moscow, to try to convince the Iranian leadership — with whom he has firm relations — to accept the principle of negotiations with the Iraqi regime in order to solve this dispute peacefully. The Soviet officials stressed to the Syrian president their readiness to exert all efforts in the direction of ensuring success in this duty.

Well informed East European sources told *AL-QABAS* that the Soviet officials also want a reconciliation between Iraq and Syria, but they hope that this will be attained in the framework of a peaceful solution of the Iraqi-Iranian war and not before the end of the war. If Al-Asad agrees to undertake this mediation, he will then be expected to visit Iran. However, the Syrian president's acceptance of the Soviet proposal implies abandoning the demand to change the Iraqi regime, a radical change in the Damascus position. This is why the well informed observers are awaiting the result of this visit to Moscow to know whether there is a new Syrian position toward the Iraqi-Iranian war.

2. On Syrian-Palestinian relations: *AL-QABAS* learned that the Soviet officials expressed opposition to the efforts exerted by Damascus to dislodge Yasir 'Arafat. They also stressed their adherence to the current Palestinian leadership, and emphasized the need to hammer out a genuine reconciliation between Syria and the current PLO leadership. These sources pointed out that there are reasons for such a position. They are:

A. The Soviet Union regards the fall of Yasir 'Arafat as an element that to a great extent will weaken the PLO and its role in the Arab and international arenas — this will cause anumber of Arab and foreign countries to reconsider their recognition of the PLO.

B. The toppling of 'Arafat by a group outside the PLO will lead to the creation of numerous Palestine liberation organizations, every one of which will become affiliated with an Arab regime. This would end the role of the PLO in any peaceful settlement and gives other sides the opportunity — foremost of which is King Husayn — to be the spokesman for the Palestinians in any upcoming peace progress.

C. Syria tried to topple 'Arafat and to replace the current Palestinian leadership with another leadership. But it failed to do so and could not ensure a genuine alternative which is popular among Palestinians and enjoys prestige in the Arab and international arenas. It was evident that the majority of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in the Arab countries favor the current Palestinian leadership. Any new Palestinian leadership will not acquire such support, particularly if such leadership were imposed by one of the Arab countries.

D. Moreover, Moscow does not want to drop the Palestinian card and leave it solely in the hands of Syria. This is one of the reasons behind its adherence to the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. From this premise, Soviet officials are trying to convince President al-Asad to turn over a new leaf with the PLO leadership.

AL-QABAS learned that this Soviet position was conveyed to 'Arafat during his meeting with Gromyko in East Berlin 2 weeks ago.

3. Lebanon and the Israeli withdrawal: In this context, President al-Asad told Soviet officials that Syria accepted U.S. mediation with Israel in order to nail down security arrangements that will pave the way for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territories. The Syrian president explained the reasons for accepting the U.S. mediation. He said that there has been a change in the U.S. position toward Damascus. The Reagan administration no longer insists on the simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon. The Reagan administration is now convinced actually as a result of the Israeli conviction that Israeli forces have to withdraw first from all of Lebanon.

Moreover, the Reagan administration believes that it is necessary to cooperate with Syria on all matters pertaining to the Lebanese issue. The Syrian president told the Soviets that accepting U.S. mediation doe not mean that Damascus supports U.S. policy in the Middle East or even its current and future plans with regard to a solution of the Middle East issue as a whole. He said that this matter is only restricted to the Lebanese issue.

The Soviet officials, in return, told the Syrian president that Moscow does not object to U.S. mediation as long as it is designed to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

4. The policy of Moscow in the region: Here comes the role of Al-Asad to ask for Soviet clarifications. *AL-QABAS* learned that the clarifications deal with the following basic issues:

A. Why did Moscow not criticize Jordan's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt? Why did Moscow restore diplomatic relations with Egypt? Does this imply that the Soviets no longer regard the Camp David accords as a threat and that they have accepted the de facto situation?

B. Did the Soviet Union begin to implement a new policy in the Middle East based on overtures toward a number of countries that are moderate and that are friendly to the United States? Is the Soviet Union no longer satisfied with its alliances with hardline Arab countries? What exactly are the dimensions of the Soviet rapproachement? What does signing a friendship and cooperation agreement with the YAR mean? Does the Soviet Union intend to go ahead with its policy in this regard?

C. Has a U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Middle East been reached during the visit of Gromyko to Washington and during his talks with Reagan and Shultz? Is the lukewarm Soviet position toward some of the countries an aspect of this agreement?

AL-QABAS has learned that the Soviet position toward these matters is as follows:

1. There has not exactly been a U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Middle East. Yet there is a U.S.-Soviet understanding on dialogue and consultation with regard to the situation in the Middle East, particularly the issue of Lebanon, the Israeli withdrawal, and the Iraqi-Iranian war. This understanding does not bar the Soviets from going ahead with their policy which is designed to combat U.S. influence in the region and to oppose all peace processes that are reached when the Soviet Union is excluded.

2. There has been no new Soviet policy on the Middle East. There is a Soviet overture toward all the Arab countries and a readiness to establish the strongest relations with all the region's countries.

3. Moscow has not changed its position toward the Camp David Accords. It still regards this deal as a losing one and wrong. But Moscow believes that it should go beyond this treaty and benefit from every Egyptian attempt to get away from it. From this premise, Moscow was keen to restore relations with Egypt and to continue a dialogue with Jordan. Moscow looks to King Husayn, and it is ready to receive him at a later time this month despite the resumption of diplomatic relations between Amman and Cairo. Moscow wants to ensure the greatest possible Arab and international support for its proposals that are designed to hold an international conference in order to solve the Middle East issue. In this framework, we can also understand the meeting that took place between Gromyko and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitshaq Shamir in New York.

'Arafat Agrees on Central Council Meeting

GF181226 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-BAYAN* has learned that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has agreed on inviting the Palestine Central Council to a meeting in preparation for convening the PNC.

It is expected that 'Arafat will call for the meeting today or tomorrow. It is worth mentioning that Syria and the Palestine National Alliance are demanding that the meeting of the Central Council precede that of the PNC. The Central Council is composed of 75 members. It is an intermediate council between the Executive Committee and the National Council.

Salah Khalaf Interviewed on PNC Session

JN181834 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has affirmed that the PNC will be convened as soon as possible, in order to discuss the political developments that concern the Palestinian revolution.

In a statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* today, he said that if some believe that they have succeeded in postponing the convening of the PNC, and if it seems to them that this postponement is a triumph for their policy against the PLO of interfering in its affairs, then they must not rejoice too much. This is because the PNC will be convened next month, and there will be no hesitation or postponement after that. Brother Abu Iyad affirmed that the PLO will make its decisions at the appropriate time and place. He said that no one has the right to complain with regard to the decisions that the Palestinian revolution will adopt — decisions that reflect insistence on Palestinian unity.

Fatah Opposition Official on Algiers Talks

GF180856 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 Oct 84 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] Damascus — Abiviv Alid al-'Amlah, one of the Fatah opposition leaders, has affirmed that the talks which were held by the National Alliance in Algiers concluded with positive results. He affirmed the importance of the talks as this is the first meeting between the National Alliance and the Algerian leadership.

In exclusive statements to *AL-KHALIJ*, Al-'Amlah said that officials from the PDRY have participated in the Algiers meetings and that both the Algerian and PDRY sides have affirmed that they reject hosting the PNC sessions unless a comprehensive national reconcilliation is achieved among the Palestinian factions.

Al-'Amlah said that a delegation from the National Alliance leadership will visit Aden during the next few days to hold talks with the Yemeni leadership.

With regard to the dialogue between the National Alliance and the Democratic Alliance, Al-'Amlah said that the dialogue with the Democratic Alliance has reached what appears to be a serious difference on a central issue, that is, the stance toward Yasir 'Arafat. He said that the issue of Yasir 'Arafat is a central one with regard to closing Palestinian national ranks. He said that

Yasir 'Arafat is no longer a common denominator and that he is no longer eligible to play any struggle role in his people's issue. Al-'Amlah said that the issue of 'Arafat is not a personal one but is totally linked to a method which has become clear, amethod which seeks to subjugate the PLO to its goals. He said there are clear plots to liquidate the Palestinian issue, including the PLO.

Al-'Amlah affirmed that despite differences in the stands of the two alliances, the door for dialogue is still open. He said that bilateral dialogues and meetings between the opposition and the PFLP have been going on, and they have made positive progress.

Sa'id Musa on Algerian Decision on PNC Session

LD181056 Kuwait KUNA in English 0952 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, Oct 18 (KUNA) — A Palestinian rebel leader said Algeria will not host the 17th session of the PNC "before a comprehensive agreement is reached between all Palestinian revolutionary factions."

In a statement to the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, military commander of Fatah rebel movement Muhammad Sa'id Musa, code-named Abu Musa, said that the Algerian decision on the PNC session was delivered to the Palestine National Alliance delegation, which has recently visited Algeria. He added that during a meeting with the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid the National Alliance delegation expressed their views on a suitable solution to inter-Palestinian differences, and emphasized the necessity to continue dialogue with the Democratic Alliance to safeguard the unity of the PLO. On the other hand, Abu Musa said Algerian officials affirmed their support to the Palestinian revolution and called for the continuation of the Palestinian struggle.

The National Alliance groups Fatah opposition, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, People's Struggle Front and Al-Sa'iqah organization.

'Arafat Receives Cable From PRC President

JN181800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a thank you cable from PRC President Li Xiannian in reply tobrother leader Abu 'Ammar's congratulatory cable on the 35th anniversary of establishing the PRC.

Fedayeen Attack in West Bank Reported

JN181750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] A group of our revolutionaries who are operating inside the occupied homeland attacked a Zionist military patrol yesterday near Nabulus in the occupied West Bank. More than eight Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded in the machine gun and hand grenade attack. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the heroic operation but, as usual, did not mention his losses. He said that his forces immediately cordoned off the area, imposed a curfew, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext that they had participated in the operation.

Resistance Attacks Patrol in South Lebanon

JN182111 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance launched a daring attack yesterday against a military patrol belonging to the agent so-called militias of the army of southern Lebanon near Dhar al-Ramlah on the road between Jazzin and Sidon in occupied southern Lebanon. One military vechile was destroyed and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded in the machine gun and rocket attack. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation, but did not mention any losses. He said, as usual, that Zionist forces immediately carried out an extensive search and arrested a large number of citizens on the pretext that they collaborated with the resistance men, who returned safely to base.

Reportage, Reaction to Oil Price Cuts

Nigeria Announces Immediate Cut

AB190718 Paris AFP in English 0711 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Lagos, Oct 19 (AFP) — Nigeria announced an immediate reduction Thursday of two dollars per barrel in the price of its crude oil following cuts earlier this week by Norway and Britain.

Oil Minister Tam David-West said at a news conference here that the Organization of Petroleum exporting countries (OPEC), of which Nigeria is a member, "has always recognized the magnitude and uniqueness of our problems and we trust they will understand our present action considering the sudden turn of events which has compelled us to act immediately in the interest of our people."

The announcement follows a decision by Norway to cut the price of its North Sea oil by $1.25 a barrel and Britain by $1.35. Although neither Norway nor Britain is a member of OPEC, oil analysts said their action would put heavy pressure on OPEC producers to cut their own prices.

"Nigeria has always resisted acting in desperation, despite the harsh economic problems we face," Mr. David-West explained. "But obviously there is a limit to such sacrifice."

Mr David-West said he had been in contact with Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and his Venezuelan counterpart, Arturo Heranandez, although they had not been informed of the details of the Nigerian decision. Mr. David-West argued that his country could not "allow a situation that will again worsen our balance of payments problems."

Disclosing that Nigerian bonny light would from now on sell for $28 a barrel, he noted that light crudes represent more than half the country's production. Nigerian output, he added, would remain at 1.4 million barrels a day. Asked about a possible price war, he asserted: "We shall react to situations as they arise."

Kuwait: No OPEC Price Reduction

LD191031 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait's minister of Petroleum and of financne, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi, stressed that OPEC will adopt all measures necessary to protect the level of prices previously agreed upon by OPEC.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah told KUNA today that the recent reductions in the prices of the oil by some countries will not affect our position in the organization in defending the current price level. He said that a reduction in the basic price of a barrel of oil — which is $29.00 — by OPEC is is not in the cards.

UAE: No Decision Yet

GF190602 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAKH) — An official of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has said that the Abu Dhabi Government has not made any decision on the adjustment of oil prices.

In a statement carried by WAM today [18 October] the ADNOC official said that consultations are currently taking place among OPEC members to study the present situation on the world oil market in order to reach agreement on a unified stand on the new developments in the oil market following the decision of Norway and Britain to reduce their oil prices.

GULF AFFAIRS

Peninsula Shield II Commander on Maneuvers

GF190816 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Colonel 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Alqami, commander of the Peninsula Shield II exercise, has asserted that the Peninsula Shield II exercise and the exercises that preceded and will follow them are the basis for building the forces of the GCC countries, bringing them closer together, and merging them into a single entity. He said that there are no differences among the forces of the GCC countries for they are linked by ties of religion, language, kinship, and destiny.

In a statement to SPA today Colonel al-'Alqami said that the security and safety of the GCC countries is the responsibility of their citizens; this has been emphasized by all officials of the GCC countries.

He said that the stages of the exercise that have been completed, including the arrival of the forces and their mobilization, have proceeded soundly and satisfactorily.

Colonel al-'Alqami said that Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, and his deputy, are very anxious that the Peninsula Shield II exercise achieve all the desired results.

The tactical stage of the Peninsula Shield II exercise, in which forces from the GCC countries are participating, began today. This stage began following the arrival of the contingents taking part in the exercise to the staging camp, the landing of vehicles, and the completion of maintenance measures. The exercise command has issued orders to the participating contingents to carry out specific defense tasks.

All the actions of the Peninsula Shield II exercise are being assessed and observed by an arbitration committee that includes officers who are experts in their field and officers from the armies of the participating countries. The committee members are recording their observations in order to learn from the experience in the future.

The present stage of the exercise has been characterized by the high morale of the men of the participating contingents and their anxiousness to implement the tasks well.

Manama Paper on Status of Damaged LPG Tanker

GF181132 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 18 Oct 84 pp 1, 2

[By Philip Moore]

[Excerpt] A tanker casualty of the Gulf's shipping war carrying a cargo of highly inflammable gases remains a floating time bomb seven days after being hit in an aerial rocket attack.

A five-mile radius has been cleared around the 23,796-ton *Gas Fountain*. Only a few salvage tugs are proceeding into the danger zone.

The tankers and freighters which sail through the southern Gulf area where the *Gas Fountain* is achored, are being diverted.

A horrifying gas cloud continues to rise and spread across the skyline.

The ship is full of butane and propane which had been loaded at Ra's Tanura.

A fire which broke out after the attack thawed the frozen gas — until it can be re-frozen, it can blow at any second.

"Because of the difficulty of keeping up refrigeration, it remains very hot and it has been blowing off deck fittings," said a shipping source close to the action.

"It still looks very dangerous indeed."

Experts say that the gases are too dense for ignition down in the holds, but as the gas spreads and accumulates more and more oxygen, the likelihood of an instant "blowout" increases.

QNA Reports on Stricken Tankers in Gulf

GF190910 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Dubayy, 19 Oct (QNA) — Shipping sources in Dubayy said today that the fire abroad the Panamanian oil tanker *Rover Star* anchored 30 miles from the port of Muscat has been extinguished. An explosion had occurred abroad the tanker while it was anchored off the Omani coast on 16 October and resulted in a fire. The sources said that 32 members of the ship's crew arrived in Dubayy on 18 October aboard another tanker following the evacuation of the crew of the *Rover Star* [words indistinct].

The sources said that the oil leaking from the 25,458-ton tanker has resulted in a 5-km-long oil slick moving toward the southwest of the Gulf of Oman.

Shipping sources in Dubayy said that security measures will be taken as of 18 October around the stricken tanker *Gas Fountain* to avoid a disaster if its 23,796-ton cargo of liquified petroleum gas [LPG] explodes. The tanker's local agent said that the tanker has been moved away from the Dubai coast and a 50-mile radius has been cleared around it. Ships have been prevented from approaching the stricken tanker. Instructions are being awaited from the ship's owners on transfering its cargo to another tanker. The tanker's agent said that the efforts made to control the leak of LPG from the tanker have been successful and that it can be said that the danger has been greatly reduced.

KUWAIT

Assembly Chairman Receives Iranian Envoy

LD181359 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1044 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Oct (KUNA) — President of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Muhammad Yusuf al-Adasani, today received a message from the president of the Iranian Advisory Council [as received], Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The message was delivered by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait, Mohammad Reza Baqeri.

No information is available about the contents of the message. However, it is believed to be connected with parliamentary relations between the Kuwaiti National Assembly and the Iranian Advisory Council at the IPU.

Deputy Premier Returns from UN, West Europe

LD182218 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad returned home at dawn Thursday after he attended the U.N. General Assembly session which opened in New York late last month.

On his way back, Kuwait's top diplomat had talks in London last Tuesday with British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe and one day later in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand.

His talks in the European capitals centered on the Middle East peace prospects, the gulf war and bilateral relations between Kuwait and Britain and France respectively.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Radio Comments on UK Oil Price Drop

GF190650 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 84

["News and Comment" program by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] The UAE petroleum and natural resources minister has said that OPEC oil ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting in Geneva in October to discuss the decision by Norway and Britain to reduce North Sea oil prices.

The decision by Norway to reduce its oil prices by $1.30 and the subsequent decision by Britain to reduce its oil prices was not unexpected. Certain measures taken earlier had suggested that Britain in particular was about to reduce its oil prices — despite the request by OPEC countries to Britain to maintain its prices. Although the reduction in oil prices announced by Norway and Britain does not have a great effect on the world oil market because most of the North Sea oil is consumed in the British Isles and to a limited extent in some of the West European countries, the reduction will shake the international oil market. It appears that the OPEC countries will be discussing this measure in their meeting scheduled for later this month — a measure which the UAE petroleum and natural resources minister said was regrettable.

The oil exporting countries have so far skillfully succeeded in preventing the outbreak of an oil war which certain quarters were trying to kindle — and an oil war does not harm just the oil producing countries but also the oil consuming countries. This is because the oil trade must be a two-way process: It must guarantee the legitimate rights of the producing countries and prevent the consumer countries from achieving gains at the expense of the producing countries, and at the same time safeguard the legitimate rights of the consumers. Therefore, cooperation between producer and consumer countries is the best guarantee for the continued prosperity of the international community — as King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has always said.

The argument that Britain's motive in reducing its oil prices is to obtain hard currency to support the shaky position of the pound is not convincing because Britain's oil sales on the international market are modest. Britain uses most of the oil it produces from the North Sea for domestic production, and thus the revenues from its oil sales will not be very helpful in keeping sterling prices steady or in alleviating its economic difficulties. Hence the surprise at the British decision.

AL-YAWM Comments on Peninsula Shield Maneuvers

GF180624 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Oct 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Maneuvers of Goodwill"]

[Text] The Gulf strike force composed of units participating in the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers is the symbol of the Gulf army which draws its strength from believing in God. This army has achieved a unique and powerful victory for the Muslims, unequaled in history. Because it is preferable to be a strong rather than weak believer, the Gulf army has been equipped with the most modern and developed weapons now that the Gulf soldier has proved himself capable of masterfully handling the latest weaponry that has been produced by the arms factories of the developed countries.

The GCC countries' policy of obtaining arms from various sources is based on refusal by the GCC countries to be drawn into any kind of dictation, fleecing, and so on, which would result in dependence on a specific source for importing arms. This makes good sense, especially as the game of politics is not governed by exemplary concepts, but by interests that affect even the decisionmakers of the developed countries. As the GCC countries do not wish to enter into such mazes, they have resorted to building their military force in light of convictions which eminate from firmly established concepts and constant values based on divine Islamic principles.

Our Gulf force is not preparing to launch hostilities against anybody. It is not building up to be aggressive and dominant. It has been built for good purposes and has been marching along the good path. It has been following a path of honorable struggle to defend our holy shrines and our national achievements. Our Gulf force has been established to defend Gulf security and

stability, and its achievements which have been targets for those who have failed in their calculations to realize the power of the Gulf sons and their ability to defend the Gulf. Experiments have proven the reality, truth, and superiority of this power.

The Peninsula Shield II maneuvers are showing clearly that military coordination among the Arab Gulf countries is not simply a whim or a dream that plays with the minds of the Gulf sons. It is a fact that is being practiced and an achievement that will stand up to any challenges. It will place the Gulf and its sons on the rostrums of victory in their fight against the enemies of humanity, religion, life, and their homeland. The Peninsula Shield II maneuvers are based on goodwill and are being carried out in the blessed country.

UAE

President Al Nuhayyan Receives 'Arafat

GF182000 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The audience was attended by Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the representative of His Highness.

His Highness the president held a meeting with 'Arafat. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue in the Arab and international arenas in addition to the current Arab situation with its various dimensions.

British Defense Official Arrives 17 Oct

GF180538 Doha QNA in Arabic 1935 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Oct (QNA) — Adam Butler, British minister of state for defense procurement, arrived here today on a 2-day official visit to the UAE. This falls within the framework of his tour to a number of the region's countries.

Upon his arrival he was received by Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Ali, deputy assistant of the Defense Ministry, a number of senior officers, and the British counsul general in Dubayy.

Meets With Finance Minister

GF180540 Doha QNA in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Oct (QNA) — Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum, UAE finance and industry minister, met today with Adam Butler, British minister of state for defense procurement, who is currently visiting the UAE. During the meeting they discussed a number of issues of common interest.

YAR

'Arafat Departs Sanaa After 1-Day Visit

JN181758 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] left Sanaa today following a 1-day visit to the YAR during which he met with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Our correspondent said that they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the current Arab situation. Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar also met in Sanaa yesterday with the Palestinian leaders and cadres stationed in the YAR. Our correspondent has learned that brother leader Abu 'Ammar affirmed during the meeting that there is a Palestinian insistence on convening the 17th PNC session, despite all the difficulties and circumstances.

Romanian Oil Minister Begins Talks 18 Oct

GF181830 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Talks between the Yemeni and Romanian sides began today at the headquarters of the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corporation. The Yemeni side was led by Brother 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bahr, minister of state, chairman of the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corporation, and member of the Standing Committee. The Romanian side was led by Gheorghe Vald, Romanian oil minister.

During the discussion, the two sides reviewed means of cooperation in the field of mineral resources, trade, and industry. The discussions were attended by deputies of the central organs of planning, agriculture, economy, and industry, and by a number of technicians.

Briefs

Envoy to Morocco — A presidential decree was issued today appointing Dr 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Hamid as YAR ambassador extraordinary and plenipoteniary to the Kingdom of Morocco. [Summary] [*Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 84 GF*]

MAYU Interviews Mubarak on Democracy, Opposition

PM181237 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 15 Oct 84 pp 4,5

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Sabri Abu al-Majid in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] Abu al-Majid: Are you satisfied with the democratic process in Egypt and what, in your view, are its shortcomings, if any?

Mubarak: In general I can say that the democratic process in the country over the past years has not shaken my faith in democracy as a philosophy, a course, and a program, because faith in democracy is a matter of principle not subject to ebb and flow. As regards my assessment of the democratic process over the past 3 years, there are positive and negative aspects. If we want to talk about the negative aspect and the shortcomings, I can sum them up with the following:

1. Nonadherence to objectivity and the tendency of some people to put their own whims and personal interests above everything else, including the high national interests.
2. Failure to distinguish between the homeland's strategic objectives, over which there should be no political maneuvers, gimmicks, or one-upmanship, and other matters where there is room for diversity and differences of opinion.
3. The fact that some people employ excitement, exaggeration, and falsification of facts and situations. It is really distressing that this group of people frequently choose the method of excitement and prevarication in pursuit of political gains despite their knowledge of the truth and despite the fact that history has taught us that the truth always ultimately prevails.
4. Some political groups are not interested in promoting a democratic atmosphere or in committing themselves to democratic methods within their own groups and yet they never stop boasting and raising the slogan of democracy.
5. Some others try to shake the young people's faith in their homeland and to plant despair in their hearts by faulting every piece of work done and every step taken. This does not mean that one is against criticism or against conducting a dialogue on Egypt's future with the participation of the young. I am one of those who most firmly believe youth has a role in our society and we must increaseand activate it . There is a difference, however, between raising issues with the young and drawing their attention to these issues on the one hand, and on the other hand, trying to convince them that everything is deteriorating steadily and that corruption is spreading and dominating all walks of life.

I find it strange that most people who indulge in such practices are well aware of the possible dire consequences, especially of causing a setback for democracy or throwing the country into a destructive whirlpool which would benefit no one and which would have catastrophic effects on everyone, regardless of affiliation. I often find myself deep in thought about this matter and the complications which could result from weakening the confidence in the existing institutions and current systems, and from casting doubt on everything. I need not describe to you one's feeling when envisaging this somber chain of expected events. All I can say is that I have pledged before God that there shall be no reneging on democracy at my hands or while I am in charge.

Democracy should have guarantees and controls to prevent it from turning into anarchy. This means that we should have one common definition of democracy, or at least similar definitions, because if everyone had a different concept of democracy it would mean following different routes which do not meet or merge. That would make democracy a mere slogan which everyone raises in accordance with his own whims and personal interests.

Once we agree on a definition of the concept of democracy, we should agree on the limits of democracy. The most important limits are accepting the rule of the Constitution and the law, no one dictating his views, respecting the decision of the majority, and upholding the right of the minority to express its views and requests.

Abu al-Majid: The Egyptian opposition enjoys more [freedom] than ever before, even more than the opposition in some countries where democracy is well established. Mr President, how do you assess the opposition over the past 3 years and what do you expect it to do to ensure the success of the democratic process and to truly become a second lung for freedom and democracy in Egypt, bearing in mind that the opposition achnowledges your role in strengthening and protecting democracy?

Mubarak: Without a doubt opposition is needed not merely as a front, as some like to say, but as a substance, and as a way to the freedom of choice for every citizen and as a means of drawing the government's attention to the various alternatives and flaws in its performance — all that is necessary to ensure political balance, social stability, and adequate performance by the government institutions. Opposition in Egypt has undoubtedly played a positive role over the past few years, but it would have played a bigger and more effective part in our political life had the opposition parties paid more attention to objectivity and resisted the pressures of one-upmanship and exaggeration.

There were many occasions when I wished that the opposition would take the initiative and raise particular issues of interest to the masses from a different angle. I soon discovered that in most cases this does not happen, that the priorities of certain opposition factions are quite different from the priorities of the masses, and that the issues raised have nothing to do with the preoccupations of the masses. This means that the opposition, while expressing a certain opinion, does not reflect the views of a particular sector of the public opinion. This renders the opposition much less effective and prevents the country from benefiting from the role of the opposition.

Abu al-Majid: The Egyptian national and partisan press enjoys unprecedented freedom. I say this as a man who worked in journalism before and after the revolution and who is still working in that field. We as journalists, and the readers in Egypt and the Arab world wish to know what President Husni Mubarak thinks of the press and what he expects of it at this stage.

Mubarak: The Egyptian press, whether national or partisan, mirrors the political and social realities in Egypt. In that sense they represent the masses of our people. In my view, the Egyptian press has made a leap forward in recent years as far as content and presentation are concerned, but for the picture to be complete

we must admit that our press has failed to achieve much of what it could have achieved. As I said in my answer to one of your previous questions, we and the public had expected the press to be guided by the same priorities as the man in the street, but this has not been the case. We had expected national issues to be viewed from a national angle rising above partisanship and to be viewed objectively in the interests of the entire society and development.

Abu al-Majid: What is the position of the public sector and the private sector in the Egyptian regime?

Mubarak: It is strange that this matter is still urgently raised by some people despite all our explanations and assurances. I think that the point from which we should all proceed in this respect is recognizing that each of the two sectors has a legitimate and desired role to play in the service of society at various stages of progress and development. After the experiences we have had in the past 50 years, this preferential differentiation between the two sectors is no longer acceptable as if one sector is the enemy of the other. The fact is that they are indispensable twins and therefore the relationship between the two sectors should be a relationship of cooperation based on common interests and not on enmity and confrontation.

As regards the relationship between the party [NDP] and the government, it should be made clear that it is the government of the party not the party of the government. If circumstances necessitated the formation of the party in 1978 while the government was already in office discharging its duties and powers, that does not mean that the party should be an extension or a shadow of the government. The normal situation should be restored, which is that the government should stem from the party and should express the party's views and programs, not vice versa.

Al-Sharif on Mubarak Meeting With Governors

NC181500 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on President Husni Mubarak's meeting with the Republic's governors on 18 October — recorded]

[Text] The most important subjects President Husni Mubarak dealt with during his meeting with the Republic's governors today were political responsibility — on the grounds that the governor is the leader of political and executive work in the governorate — and the importance of explaining facts to the citizens and enlightening them about political and economic issues and objectives. His excellency the president also dealt with the importance of achieving the performance levels set forth in the plan, as well as with the need to give utmost attention to increasing production in agriculture and industry and encouraging investment.

The president then explained Egypt's foreign policy, as well as its relations with its Arab brothers and inter-Arab relations in general. He also dealt with the Palestinian situation and developments in the Lebanese war and the Gulf war. The president also explained Egypt's international relations, its relations with the big powers in the political and economic fields, as well as its African relations, and its relations with the nonaligned states.

His excellency the president pointed out that Egypt's policy has the respect of the world and is a balanced, calm, and wise policy characterized by mutual respect, while preserving the Egyptian will, serving the national aims, and keeping it in line with Egypt's dignity and influence in the Arab nation, the African continent, and the Middle East.

The president also dealt with the progress of Egyptian-Sudanese integration, integration projects, convening of the Nile Valley Parliament, and the importance of the debates taking place in parliamentary committees to bolster the integration process.

His excellency the president pointed out that the governor is the leader of political work in the governorate and therefore, governors must be capable of guiding all the political, party, local, and excecutive establishments in their governorates. The president also stressed the importance of the governors exercising their powers in light of the philosophy of local government, namely, decentralized government. This is where the importance of the local leadership lies in achieving development and increasing production, which cannot be realized except through work and effort. It is also important to address the citizens and enlighten them about the political, social, and economic state of affairs of their country. The president explained the importance of this enlightenment on all aspects of building the society.

The president also dealt with the rate of population growth which places difficult responsibilities on the state in securing strategic commodities, especially grain. The president explained that the increase in consumption must be dealt with and that consumption must be rationalized. It must be understood that this not only involves correcting our economic course but also involves a better understanding and a deeper awareness of the fact that an increase in consumption and failure to rationalize it would mean importation of more commodities of a strategic nature. The president gave as an example the increase in the consumption of wheat, which has doubled in recent years.

The president explained that the call for rationalizing consumption is not linked with subsidies, but involves a more serious issue — that we avoid the day when the state might find it difficult to secure commodities in constantly increasing quantities. This is where the importance of the local leaderships lie in enlightening the citizens of the country about facts and objectives. The planning minister pointed out that our consumption of wheat doubled during the past 10 years and that our annual wheat imports rose from 3 million tons to 6 million tons, at a time when world surplus had not increased but remained stable. There is no doubt that this goes with what the president has been saying on various occasions — he who does not own his food does not own his freedom.

President Mubarak also talked about the need to develop the Egyptian village and improve its services. The president noted that the mode of development should vary from one governorate to another. The president underlined the importance of boosting the productive families (al-usar al-muntijah) project. Mubarak will inaugurate the productive families fair on 20 November

1984 — the fair is organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The governors will attend this fair to aquaint themselves with the sort of products of each governorate.

The president discussed the development of the north coast. He also listened to the prime minister report on the government's alternative plans to extend utilities and services to the north coast, to encourage investment there, and to provide soft loans to cooperatives intending to build there.

The president proposed that studies be made to choose locations for tourist villages along the north coast, Sinai, or the Red Sea coast, and to encourage local and foreign investors to construct such villages.

The president also commented on energy consumption in Egypt and recommended an increased utilization of solar energy. He gave instructions that the Ministries of Industry and War Production should supply the governorates' needs for the required equipment. War Production factories should, in coordination with the Housing Ministry, examine the demand for solar energy equipment which can be used in apartment buildings. Solar energy can help reduce reliance on electricity and should be amply used in new cities and in all governorates. The minister of industry pointed out that experiments are underway to use solar energy in pumping water for irrigation and land reclamation.

In light of his discussion with the governors, the president gave a wide range of instructions:

Concerning ready-to-wear clothes, the private sector should be assigned a wider role. Investment laws should be revised in such a way as to encourage investors to enter new fields of industry, thus enhancing employment.

The president gave instructions to increase the number of partially mechanized bakeries and household ovens.

The president recommended a revision of the sales price of reclaimable land so as to encourage citizens to invest in agriculture. Overpricing, the president said, is counterproductive because it discourages prospective buyers.

The president ordered a committee to be formed for determining the size of arable land in Al-Wadi al-Jadid governorate in light of locally available water supply. The president promised to visit this governorate.

The president also ordered the formation of a ministerial committee to visit the Aswan Governorate and to explore prospects for developing Lake Nasir.

The president gave instructions to control prices of agricultural products in all governorates and make sure that intergovernorate trade is not overpriced.

The president also ordered a task force to be formed to examine the development of the Siwa Oasis in the Marsa Matruh Governorate.

Al-Majid, Others Interviewed on Jordan Trip

NC181754 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Excerpt] London, 18 Oct (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stressed that the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn was completely successful and that there is a broad area for the two countries to cooperate in various fields. He said that the main task of the two countries' officials will be to proceed along the course of bolstering and strengthening this cooperation. He added that we talk and consult with Jordanian officials without there being any differences in views or opinions.

'Abd al-Majid was answering a question by the London-based Arab weekly *AL-TADAMUN* to be published in its issue next Saturday. The magazine held interviews with four senior Egyptian officials who accompanied President Mubarak on his visit to Jordan. These officials are Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Economy Minister Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and head of the Information Department Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji.

Answering another question, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that it should be made clear that the purpose of the visit was not the establishment of new alliances or blocs against any Arab country in the region because Jordan and Egypt are seeking to narrow differences rather than widen them.

Safwat al-Sharif described the talks of President Mubarak and King Husayn as very successful and added that they will positively affect the just causes of the Arab nation and will contribute to a (?strengthening) of the Arab ranks.

Ghali Leaves Cairo for 2-Day Visit to Kenya

NC190720 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Nairobi early today for a 2-day official visit to Kenya. During the visit, Dr Ghali will hand Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi a letter from President Husni Mubarak.

Dr Ghali will hold talks with Kenyan officials on subjects related to consolidating the OAU and convening the 20th African summit conference scheduled to meet in Addis Ababa next month. The two sides will also discuss Middle East developments and bilateral relations.

Mubarak Visits Sudan's Numayri in Hospital

NC181728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon visited Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri at Al-Ma'adi Hospital to inquire about his health. President Numayri underwent a minor operation on his right foot.

It was carried out by Dr 'Abd al-Salam Jum'ah and Dr Husayn 'Abd al-Fattah, the senior surgeons at the military hospital in Al-Ma'adi.

President Numayri will leave Al-Ma'adi Hospital on Saturday morning [20 October] after having recovered from his operation.

Reportage, Comment on Recent Military Operations

Communique 1,623: 923 Killed

JN181829 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,623 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And that our forces, they surely must conquer [Koranic verse]. Glorious Iraqis, you have said through our great leader, Saddam Husayn: We challenge them. So here you are confirming to the whole world, through the strength of your zealous sons, that whoever challenges Iraq — the Iraq of the two Qadisiyas — can only face defeat or violent death.

You have given Iran's ignorant rulers an opportunity to revise their stands, resort to their conscience, and spare the souls of their citizens by accepting the call for peace and abandoning their impossible ambitions on Iraqi territory. However, their evil ambitions, Zionism's continuous whispering into their ears, and the mean instigation of those who call themselves Arabs have blinded them so that they cannot see truth and justice. Thus, they carried out their abortive attempt on the II Army Corps' operational sector in the Sayf Sa'd area.

The sons of Iraq were lying in wait for them. They meted out heaven's just punishment on the self-deluded. They directed the fire of justice at the remnants of falsehood. Thus, some were burned to death and their bodies were badly mutilated; some, looking terrified, were detained by our forces; and still others fled. Thus, Iraq remains strong and lofty with the strength of its sons. You, O Iraqis, shall remain dignified and free.

The results of the operations that took place yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. After our brave Armed Forces repulsed and destroyed the enemy's desperate attempts and offensives on our units in the II Army Corps' operational sector in Sayf Sa'd last night and this morning, Iraq's great heroes continued to strike powerfully at the enemy's retreating forces throughout today. They inflicted more losses in personnel, arms, and equipment on them, and detained several enemy forces. One of our formations inflicted losses of 923 dead and large numbers of wounded on the enemy's retreating remnants. We will inform you of the rest of the enemy losses in our subsequent communiques.

2. The heroic cavaliers of our helicopters today directed powerful and devastating strikes at enemy personnel concentrations and equipment in the heroic II Army Corps' operational sector, inflicting the heaviest losses on the remnants of the criminal Khomeyniite clique and its humbled equipment. They left enemy positions, equipment, and vehicles in smoke and flames, while explosions resounded. All of our aircraft returned safely, God be praised.

3. Further to our Communique No 1,621 which was issued last night: The visible losses sustained by the enemy forces during the brave raid that a unit of our heroic fighters carried out in the operational sector east of Basra reached 250 dead and large numbers of wounded. Fifty-six infantry and arms positions and three heavy machine guns were destroyed. An artillery emplacement was also destroyed and the personnel in it, including the officer in charge, were killed. Furthermore, five different types of vehicles —including one vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun, one tank, and one excavator — were destroyed. Several of the enemy were also captured.

[signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 October 1984.

Press Comment

JN190937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0717 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* said today that Iraqi forces have again demonstrated the Iranian regime's inability to penetrate the Iraqi bastion and the impossibility of bypassing it. The paper added that the Iraqis are watching the movements and maneuvers of the Iranian forces. *AL-THAWRAH* pointed out that the proud area of Sayf Sa'd, where the forces of aggression attacked Iraqi forces on three sides along a 20-km front, has become a sharp sword that cut off the heads of the spiteful invaders.

It said the Iranian regime's new aggression was no surprise because the sons of Iraq were lying in wait to crush it and inflict a deterrent defeat. It added that yesterday's battles proved that in the 5th year of the war Iraq is better equipped than ever to deter the aggressors and mete out just punishment.

AL-THAWRAH affirmed that, with its decisive military and moral superiority, Iraq will be able to destroy and crush all the enemy's offensives and rabid attempts to harm the Iraqi people's security, sovereignty, and national honor. The paper said: It is no coincidence that the evil aggressors chose to launch their new attack only 1 day before the Iraqi National Assembly elections, because they hate to see the Iraqis continuing their march of construction, social development, and democracy despite the war circumstances. They thought their new attack would prevent our great people from exercising democracy, which vividly reflects their firm determination to challenge aggression and to continue building their democratic institutions.

The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* said that President Saddam Husayn's challenge to them and the catastrophe he said would befall them continue to exist. Whether the Iranians repeat their aggressive attempts or not, it noted, will not change their inevitable doom. The Iraqi Army awaits them at the front and is inflamed with the desire to fight them. In conclusion the paper said that yesterday's battle is fresh proof that Iraq is capable of destroying and crushing any force that approaches its borders and attempts to desecrate its soil.

Army Sources on Fighting

JN191019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — A commander of one of the Iraqi Army formations in the central sector of the front has stated that the Iraqi fighters destroyed the Iranian forces' columns and

wiped out the remnants after they made a desperate attempt to attack Iraq. In a statement to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* published here today, the commander of the 'Abd al-Hamid forces said that the Iraqi field command in the central sector had been fully aware of the details of the Iranian offensive and was prepared for any eventuality. He said the Iranian regime dispatched great numbers of Khomeyni Guards and regular forces, but the Iraqis were alert to them and forced them back in disarray. The commander said that his forces are ready to crush any new enemy attempt to improve their positions and will transform all attacks into bitter defeats.

A source in the Army's political guidance section told an *AL-THAWRAH* correspondent in an advanced position on the front that the Iraqi forces had decided the battle in their favor before dawn on 18 October. The source said the enemy aimed to occupy the Iraqi area of Sayf Sa'd, which Iraqi forces wrested from Iranian forces at the beginning of the war in 1980, but the fighters' high morale, alertness, and heroism dissipated the enemy's evil dreams. The source expected the Iranian forces to repeat their attempts with the aim of realizing the Iranian enemy's expansionist ambitions. The source asserted that the Iraqi fighters will defeat all these attempts.

More by Army Commanders

JN191108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1012 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — The commander of Iraq's I Army Corps has stated that the aim of yesterday's attack on the Sayf Sa'd area was to divert attention from Iran's aggressive intentions against the southern sector. In a statement to Baghdad radio and Voice of the Masses broadcast at noon today, the commander, whose forces are stationed in the central sector, said that his forces are ready and capable of crushing any Iranian offensive. The Iranian forces will counter the same fate they met in all their previous attacks. He said that the Iranian attack on Sayf Sa'd was an evasive tactic. The II Army Corps forces, he said, had been monitoring the movements of the Iranian forces, and the attacking forces were wiped out completely. Only those who were captured or fled the battlefield escaped death, the commander concluded.

The commander of the Badr forces, which confronted the attack, said that his forces inflicted grave losses on the Iranian forces. Thousands were killed, wounded, or captured. In an interview with Baghdad radio and Voice of the Masses in an advanced position at the front, the commander said that the Khomeyni Guards and regular forces that the enemy sent into battle were estimated at one infantry dvision and a number of armored units. He reiterated his forces' determination to crush any new Iranian attack in his sector.

Combing Operations at Front

JN191120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1052 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — An INA correspondent in the central sector of the front has said that Iraqi units are conducting large-scale combing operations in search of fleeing Iranian soldiers. The correspondent said that the search operations resulted in the capture of new groups of Iranians who fled the battlefield following the Iraqi counterattack against Iranian forces in that sector. He also said he saw Iranian corpses littering the plains and mountain slopes of the region. The correspondent added that large numbers of Iranian prisoners were evacuated to the rear and transferred to nearby cities yesterday. The correspondent met with a number of Iranian prisoners who included officers of various ranks and Khomeyni Guards commanders.

Threats Will Be Implemented

GF181730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1520 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Uanttributed commentary]

[Text] Why do the evil aggressors wait when they gather, armed with grudges and ambitions, and move toward our borders? Do they expect to cross over border peacefully? Do they expect us to welcome them and tell them: "Thank you for coming to kill us, to steal our territories, to split our homeland and to annex it to Iran?"

What are the expectations of these fools? Iraq is ours. At the border there is a line that separates slavery from freedom. We have expressed our views and demonstrated our acts from the very beginning. We neither retreated nor hesitated. With the passage of time, we are becoming more powerful and we have provided the clearest evidence that deeds are associated with what we say.

We have reiterated our warning to the suspect leaders in Tehran, those allies of the Zionists. We warned them against rejecting peace. We also warned then against aggression and sabotage. We told them that our retaliation will be different this time if they arrogantly try to challenge us. We also told them that no matter how much they prepared for such an aggression — by their own efforts or with the assistance of their Zionist allies or even others who aid them — this will result in an utter fiasco. We also told them that this will bring evil to them to an extent they and those who encouraged them to be hostile toward Iraq never conceived.

They tried their luck in the central sector. What did they harvest other than devastation, death, and defeat? If they believe that the central sector is their opportunity, or even if they believe that their attack will divert Iraqi [forces] to this sector at the expense of the other sectors, then they are deluded. Why? Because their operations in the central sector have haphazardly and dramatically collapsed. In this operation the evil men of the swindler have become piles of corpses. Iraq prepared destructive surprises and the necessary power for them in all sectors. Iraq is fully ready to translate words into deeds. Iraq does not make warnings in vain. It only states what it will do.

Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow for Talks

For Soviet reportage on the visit to Moscow of Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, including his talks with Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, see the 19 October Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Al-Masri Receives FRG Official in Amman

JN181254 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met today with the director of the Middle East Department in the FRG Foreign Ministry and reviewed bilateral relations and means of bolstering them. Talks also dealt with the situation in the Arab region and developments in the Palestine question. Al-Masri asserted Jordan's position on an international conference on the Middle East, referring to the role West European countries could play in convening such a conference.

French Envoy Arrives With Message for Husayn

JN181633 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand today. The message was conveyed to the king by De Grossouvre, the French president's envoy and special adviser, when he met with the king at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. The meeting was attended by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and the French ambassador in Amman.

The French envoy arrived in Amman this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Raja'i al-Dajani, secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the French ambassador in Amman.

Weinberger Trip, U.S. Support for Israel Viewed

JN190905 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Oct 84 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Golden Opportunity"]

[Text] Weinberger believes there is a golden opportunity for bringing about peace in the Middle East, but nobody knows where that opportunity is. At the same time, the United States continues to supply Israel with extensive financial and military aid, a fact that encourages an intransigent position and blocks prospects of bringing about a just peace in the region.

The golden opportunity the U.S. secretary of defense is talking about cannot evolve unless the United States abandons its desire to determine the fate of the region unilaterally and drops its opposition to the international conference called for and supported by the Arabs and the majority of the international community.

There is no doubt that U.S. policy has missed many golden opportunities for bringing about peace in the region since it participated in freezing the Geneva conference; turned its back on the Soviet, Egyptian-French, and Fes initiatives; and simultaneously encouraged Israel to continue its settlement policy in the occupied territories.

In light of this, it is obvious that U.S. policy shoulders an immense responsibility toward the deterioration in the region, because the United States is responsible for creating that situation. Therefore, many people believe that Weinberger's reference to a golden opportunity should be considered a propaganda ploy in the U.S. presidential campaign.

We should recall that benefiting from golden opportunities to bring about peace in the region is closely linked to establishing a new Arab reality based on solidarity and intrinsic Arab power. Otherwise, nobody can deter Israel or prevent the United States from continuing to waste such opportunities.

U.S. Stance on Jordan's Defense Needs Analyzed

JN191030 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Oct 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Jordan and the Right to Self-Defense"]

[Text] The day before yesterday, King Husayn asserted to U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger that Jordan is determined to go ahead with its plan to diversify the sources of its weapons. This came in clarification of Jordan's policy on this vital issue, which is closely related to its security and right of self-defense.

At the same time, King Husayn's assertions came as a polite reply to the arrogant statements made a few days ago by Secretary of State George Shultz, who called Jordan's attempt to acquire Soviet weapons regrettable and grave. What is surprising in the U.S. position is the unlimited U.S. generosity in meeting Israel's demands for weapons regardless of their quantity and quality, while at the same time, the United States refrains from supplying its alleged friend Jordan with any type of weapons, and also tries to prevent it from satisfying its weapons needs from other sources.

What is even more surprising is that U.S. insistence on depriving Jordan of its right to acquire weapons comes at a time when the U.S. Administration understands very well Jordan's legitimate demands in this regard and the defensive nature of the weapons it needs, especially since the armaments fever is escalating and many countries in the region are puchasing weapons from various sources. It is very strange for the United States to take such a position on the issue of Jordanian arms. At the same time, Weinberger visited Israel in order to extend further U.S. military support, as if the United States was not satisfied with meeting all the military demands that Shim'on Peres had submitted to Washington. Therefore, it seems the United States sent Weinberger to Israel to meet further requirements, beginning with the funding of Israel's Lavi jet fighter project and ending with an urgent deal to purchase $1 billion worth of Israeli military products.

In light of this, Jordan has to announce that it will not submit to any pressure or attempt to prevent it from developing and modernizing its weapons. French Defense Minister Charles Hernu's two visits to Jordan and the talks that are taking place with the Soviet Union and other friendly countries regarding these weapons all affirm that Jordan continues its efforts to develop its self-defense capabilities, especially since the issue of self- defense in a region in which arms fever and aggressive trends are increasing is a sacred duty to which any country should pay full attention.

UN Official on Proposed Negotiations With Israel

NC182052 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Lu'ayy al-Jundi, the director of the UN information office in Lebanon, today explained the reports about contacts which UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan is conducting. He said that Lebanon has not yet given its reply to what Gen Callaghan conveyed to Lebanese Army Commander General Michel 'Awn. Callaghan had told Gen 'Awn that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar asked him to investigate the possibility of holding talks on a military level between Lebanon and Israel under UN auspices. He also conveyed to him Israel's agreement in principle to hold such meetings. Gen 'Awn replied that he will convey this to the government.

In reply to a question, Mr Al-Jundi said that the instructions given by the UN secretary general to Gen Callaghan did not mention the (?armistice) committee. Al-Jundi referred to the statement issued by the UNIFIL command in which it announced that the UN secretary general asked Gen Callaghan to prepare for [words indistinct] between Lebanon and Israel under UN auspices.

Karami Says Cabinet To Meet Soon

NC182020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has announced that a Cabinet session will be held soon. Prime Minister Karami did not specify when the session will be held, pointing out that contacts are still underway to set the venue and date of the session. Prime Minister Karami this evening met for this purpose with former Ministers Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, and Muhammad Baydun and discussed the results of the current contacts to set a date for the Cabinet session.

Syria May Have To Intervene

NC191251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Commenting on the political situation in Lebanon, a government source said today that any solution requires Syrian intervention. A ministerial source said that tomorrow's Cabinet session was cancelled because the concerned parties insisted on conditions and counterconditions that revealed inflexibility and mistrust, thus creating an atmosphere offering no concessions or rapprochement.

The ministerial source added that a Cabinet meeting is urgently needed to deal with outstanding minor questions, particularly the administrative affairs involved in settling the employees' daily problems and running the administration.

It was noted that these affairs cannot be left to stack up pending a solution of more important major political questions, because small matters are accumulating daily and may lead to an explosion that would obstruct the march, taking the important and major political questions with it. The ministerial source said that contacts have been undertaken but that no decision was reached on a Cabinet meeting, either an ordinary session or in the form of ministerial conclaves. He said that though tomorrow's session has been cancelled, it is hoped that a meeting will be held on Monday or Wednesday, if everything goes well.

The source feared that it will be necessary to hold a meeting in Damascus or for Syria to intervene, inasmuch as matters have reached a high point of obstruction and any solution would require Syrian intervention.

The source concluded by saying: Perhaps, for this reason, a young minister and a presidential envoy will visit Damascus, to rearrange things and set matters right.

VOL on Junblatt's Stand

NC181600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Official efforts are underway to avert a rift within the government. Both Prime Minister Karami and former Prime Minister al-Huss have been holding contacts, through mediators, to ensure the conventing of the Cabinet.

Our correspondent has learned that Junblatt told more than one mediator that he made up his mind not to attend Cabinet meetings. Junblatt said: Villages have been ravaged. We joined the Cabinet to ensure the implementation of certain demands. So far, nothing has been gained. My hands are empty.

Speaking to the mediators, Junblatt aired his wrath against the so-called patriotic ministers. They sold us out and got all they wanted.

Our correspondent adds that, despite the exaggerated opinions voiced by Junblatt, mediators believe that Junblatt will end up by agreeing to attend the Cabinet meeting.

Birri Rejects Future Lahd Militia Role

NC181538 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] A future role for the Israeli-backed Lahd militia was flatly rejected today by Minister of State for South Lebanon Nabih Birri, who also refused the idea of UNIFIL taking up a permanent role in a specific area of the south. The minister of state declared that UNIFIL, acting in accordance with Resolution 425 of the Security Council, should deploy its units up to the internationally recognized borders. He noted that the resolution specified that the role of UNIFIL was not to separate between Lebanese regions or factions, but to support the Lebanese Army in reaching the international borders.

Mr Birri recalled that the so-called free Lebanon was set up under an Israeli Labor regime and he declared that all such ploys are totally rejected and unacceptable to Lebanon. The minister of state attributed the expulsion of Phalangist Deputies Edmond Rizq and Louis Abu Sharaf [words indistinct] Lebanese Forces' elections and not the speakership elections.

Security Arrangements Plan for South Completed
NC191433 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Military Committee on Security Arrangements for south Lebanon this afternoon completed the committee's final scheme of its arrangements. The committee held a meeting at noon today under the chairmanship of Brigadier General Muhammad al-Haj, commander of the Beirut area forces, at the headquarters of the Beirut area Military Command. The meeting was attended by Committee Members Brigadier General Emil Karam, Brigadier General George Harruq, Colonel Ghassan Dahir, Navy Colonel Fu'ad Hasan, and Colonel Ilyas Khalil. It was also attended by Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, political adviser and acting secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and Yusuf Sa'dallah al-Khuri, legal adviser and head of the State Consultative Council.

Brig Gen al-Haj outlined the committee's scheme on the subject of the arrangements which will accompany the withdrawal of the Israeli Forces from the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya in the light of the observations which the Cabinet made to the committee at the last joint meeting. The committee members approved this scheme together with the proposed amendments.

Shi'ite Leader Fadlallah MONDAY MORNING Interview
NC190907 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 15-21 Oct 84 pp 40-45

[Interview of Shi'ite leader Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by *MONDAY MORNING* reporter Sandra A. Malih "last week" — place not given]

[Text] [Malih] Who is Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah?

[Fadlallah] If I were to bypass personal features and physical characteristics I would say that I am a person who lives to fulfill my duty as a human being, as a thinker, as a Moslem, and as a citizen, in order to raise the standards of the people who nobody cares for to a higher level. Consequently, I believe that every human being should consider all his resources as a trust from God for others. As such, a person who uses his resources in an irresponsible manner betrays this trust.

Contrary to all the distorted images portrayed by the media, I am not a person who operates on the assumption that violence is the best method in life. I believe that everything can be solved by dialogue, and all issues can be resolved through sound methods that respect the humanity of the human being, and seek to change the convictions of people through intellectual persuasion. This is the best method. I believe that in all cases violence is like a surgical operation that the doctor should only resort to after he has exhausted all other methods.

We feel that in Lebanon, where every person has freedom of expression, be it on the religious level or in terms of non-religious thought, and has the right to publicly advocate his views, nobody has the right to impose his views on others. On the contrary, we believe that violence cannot achieve these results for the individual, and it is more probable that violence will end up leading to negative rather than positive results.

Consequently, even though we adhere to Islamic thought, we recognize the rights of others to embrace Christian thought, or, for that matter, communist thought or some other ideology. However, we owe it to one another and to the public to try to present a clear image of this thought, and not to let ideological differences become the basis for fighting or strife.

We believe that Lebanon should always be the center for ideologies that engage in dialogue and debate, and which also seek to express themselves in practical, but civilized ways.

[Walih] What are the principal religious views of a political nature that you advocate?

[Faddallah] My understanding of religion does not distinguish between religious and secular, except for the fact that religion differs from other forms of thought in that it is linked to the metaphysical, whereas other forms of though deal with reality. When we say that religion is linked to the metaphysical, we are not implying that all life involves the metaphysical. Religion emanates from the metaphysical, but in action it is linked to life and reality. As such, we can consider religious thought to be a form of thought.

We believe that the basic objective of religion is to provide justice to all people, regardless of their differences. The Koran explains the reason for the sending of messages and messengers by saying, "that mankind may observe right measures," which refers to justice, namely, that every person be given what is rightfully his. If we perceive justice to be the basis of the message, we can differentiate between justice and any political move, because justice is not established by mere sermons and advice. It must be injected into life by practical organization designed to secure for people, in a practical manner, their rights, to confront the challenges that face the weak of society who reel under undesirable conditions imposed on them, and to confront the groups that attempt to crush the freedom and free will of people and try to deprive them of their right to selfdetermination.

We are striving, as Moslems, citizens and human beings, within this political context, to prevent our country from coming under the dominant hegemony that seeks to put pressure on people and to restrict their freedoms. We believe in equitable opportunities and balanced rights.

Regionally, we believe that no country, no regional camp has the right to restrict the freedom of people, whoever the regional camp might be.

On the international level, we oppose colonialism with all our modest resources, I do not imply that we can really confront colonialism in the full sense of the word, but we feel that every person should say "no" to colonialism, because it eliminates humanity, human beings, and human freedom.

Because of our religious conviction, we are opposed to oppression, be it internal, regional or international. We only possess very modest resources, which we are seeking to expand, and which are available to back all who seek freedom in this world.

[Malih] Shi'ites in Lebanon have been accused of seeking to impose hegemony and of practicing mental and armed terrorism. What is your comment?

[Fadlallah] I ask the accusers to present their evidence, and I wonder where these rumors came from. These rumors were circulated because the Shi'ites got involved in the military situation. However, other groups also got militarily involved. The military situation was not really a popular situation, but a response to the Palestinian situation and the conditions in the Middle East. They are people who have rights, and they got involved on this basis, within a Lebanese context, which, in turn, has interacted with regional and international conditions.

[Malih] What is your view on the relation between religion and the state or the separation of religion from state?

[Fadlallah] At this point we must make a distinction between the state of one religious party or the state with a vast majority of one view, in which religion is the state, and the situation like Lebanon, which is one of diversity. The Moslem scholar must advocate the system that he believes should be applied, but when the situation is not suitable for such application, he must maintain his principles and not be inconsistent, in order to convince the other party, as is the case in all intellectual confrontations.

However, before trying to reach the objective of convincing others by resorting to the familiar, civilized methods of persuasion, he must coexist with others. He must learn to respect the views of others if he is to ask others to respect his views.

[Malih] Some Shi'ites think that they are still being persecuted, and that the explosive reaction to this state is manifested in the situation in Iran, and in political and social upheaval in Lebanon. What do you think?

[Fadlallah] The situation in Iran is not one of Shi'ites being persecuted, because the regime in Iran did not emerge as the result of a Shi'ite reaction against a non-Shi'ites situation. It emerged as a reaction against a Shi'ite king, as the result of a confrontation with a system of government that was Shi'ite and, generally speaking, respected Shi'ite observances. As such, the events of Iran cannot be described as a backlash to the persecution of Shi'ites. In fact, the revolutionary leadership advocated the concept that Islam should be the rule of life. This was similar to the Marxist revolution against the Czar.

In such cases, ideology benefits from the negative conditions which prevail in society at the time, such as persecution, deprivation, and suffering. The ideology that emerged in Iran was Islamic, and called for the application of Islam to all phases of law and government. Generally speaking, it benefitted from both the internal and regional conditions, and used provocation to bring people back to their religious roots. As such, the Iranian situation cannot be described as a reaction to persecution which the Shi'ites might feel, because the Iranian society is Shi'ite.

In Lebanon, the Shi'ites are in a state of confrontation with persecution and deprivation, and so on. We must admit, however, that Shi'ism has benefitted from the state of violence that has prevailed in Lebanon. It became involved in violence in Lebanon, which, in turn, drew upon the violence in the region arising from the Palestinian problem and the Middle East conflict.

The state of the Shi'ites is the same as that of all persecuted peoples. The pattern of violence, however, arises from the condition prevailing in the area. The present state of violence that has engulfed the Shi'ites is not a Shi'ite feature, but is rather an oriental state. In other words it is a state of emotional reaction that grips the orientals.

We consider that the Palestinians are in a state of violence, that the Arab area that has come in close contact with the Palestinian struggle is also in a state of violence. Otherwise, how would be explain the military coups and the present upheaval? Many who are analysing the Shi'ite situation are looking at the Shi'ites out of the context of the conditions that currently prevail in the area, and in isolation from similar states of other Lebanese communities.

There is a definite media bias designed to focus studies of violence on the state of the Shi'ites, to the exclusion of the other factions, in an open bid to portray this state as posing a threat to Lebanon and the region. It then follows that an appeal is made for cooperation to confront this "threat." I personally believe that this approach and this attempt to portray the Shi'ite state as being unique is part of a media scheme that is not merely Lebanese, but could be Lebanese, regional and international.

[Malih] Do you feel that the Shi'ites of Lebanon are the target of a conspiracy in which both internal and external parties are involved?

[Fadlallah] There is a conspiracy, backed by internal and external forces, against all who reject colonialism. The Shi'ites are a target, not because of some Shi'ite characteristic or peculiarity, but because of their stand. It is a plot against the individual who does not compromise, against those who pursue their objectives directly, without accepting settlements. It is this state that is feared, the state of standing for what you believe in and seek to achieve. If the labels and positions were changed, any other groups would be treated in the same way.

In the beginning the Palestinians were in the right state, which is the reason why various means were used to subvert them and break them, until they were tamed and have become part of the "game."

I believe that the pressure exerted by the media and by others against the Shi'ites is part of an attempt to subject the Shi'ites to a similar fate, an attempt that involves the taming of the Shi'ites, so that they will be "nice" and will "fall in line."

[Malih] To what extent has this effort succeeded?

[Fadlallah] In my estimation, this attempt has so far failed because the actual situation now is one of confidence in the present stand and in the future. There is confidence that religious thought is a vital element in giving the individual strength to stand firm in the face of challenges and storms.

[Malih] Could it be that the fears expressed over the Shi'ite

upsurge arise from the fact that religion and politics, in this context, are inseparable, whereas the Palestinian cause was not a religious issue, only a political one?

[Fadlallah] The religious issue is not determined by moods or emotions. The issue has its checks, which are part of the checks that exist on the political stage. The difference is that, generally, the political stage is a stage that does not depend much on truth. The religious element is valuable because it gives political activists involved in working for the issues of others stability by injecting the truth into their work and ways.

I believe that we can only cope with the challenges that face us if we are truthful. Even though we consider that the Israelis are the enemies of our cause, yet we must objectively admit that the Israelis are honest in their strategy, even though their tactics are deceitful. Likewise, even though we are admittedly the political opponents of the Phalangists, I say that they are honest in their strategy, even though they might resort to devious tactics.

We believe that the present Shi'ite position could be a more honest one, and that the individual could be more committed to his cause, but naturally not inflexible. As such, even when we make a move within the realm of the religious or the Islamic field, we move firmly, but with flexibility. We believe that there is room for flexibility, dialogue, and cooperation with others for the common cause. Religious thought does not remove the individual from such a context.

[Malih] Do you call for the creation of an Islamic state in Lebanon, while preserving the Christian entity, and how do you think that can be realized?

[Fadlallah] When we think of an Islamic state, we base our ideas on Islamic thought expressed within the framework of the state. As I said at first, we think of an Islamic state in the event that its objective premises were realized, which is not the case at present. In this we are exactly like the Marxist who thinks about setting up a Marxist state in Lebanon. How does he think? They probably think in terms of giving to those with whom they differ a measure of freedom which depends on their policies.

As far as Islam is concerned, if an Islamic state were set up this would not in any way infringe on Christian though. The difference between Islamic thought and Christian thought is theological. Christian thought considers Christ to be God in a certain, philosophical way, whereas Islam considers him to be God's messenger. Laying aside the theological aspects, we do find no differences in the moral standards advocated by Christianity and Islam. Therefore, generally speaking, life, morals, individual and social conduct standards as advocated by Christianity do not differ from the moral and conduct standards advocated by Islam. In what way do Christianity and Islam differ? Islam has canon law (Shari'a), whereas Christianity does not. Christianity says that we must all become one with Christ, and we must not confront legal issues as Christians. There is no legal framework.

[Malih] Could this be due to the fact that, unfortunately, religious prejudices run deeper than political bias?

[Fadlallah] If we really want to be civilized, we do not necessarily cancel out a state which has become entangled and complex, we simply change the approach. In this modern age, we simply must hold dialogue.

[Malih] Are you saying that it is easier for a Moslem to live within an Islamic state than it is for him to live within a secular or a Christian state?

[Fadlallah] The problem of Moslem is the dualism arising from the difference between what is lawful on the level of the state and what is lawful on the level of faith. The problem of Islam is that it does not have a legal vacuum. Consequently, when a Moslem lives in a state that does not adopt Islam, his life remains confused because of the dualism that he is living under.

The Christian, by contrast, does not have this problem when living in an Islamic society. It is true that he might face certain psychological situations, and there might be certain sensitivities, and he might have a feeling of being deprived of his freedom. In fact, in Marxist societies he might even feel persecuted by being deprived of freedom. Even some capitalist societies might exert various forms of pressure in a bid to alienate people from Christianity.

Christianity in France and America is not at ease today. Why? Christianity is under extreme pressure from secularization, exerted through civilized methods, designed to undermine the faith of the people. We cannot describe the Europeans or the Americans of today as Christians. They are either uninterrested in religion or outright agnostics and unbelievers.

Under an Islamic system, the Christians would live in exactly the same way that they would under any other system. Naturally, there would be fine differences depending on different circumstances and on the way basic principles are actually practiced. The possibility does exist that in an Islamic state there would be an exploitation of Islam which would even be directed against other Moslems, as is the case in some situations today.

[Malih] How do the historic Shi'ite-Sunnite differences affect the situation on the local scene in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] I believe we have reached the stage in Lebanon at which we have narrowed down the Shi'ite-Sunnite rift. Both Sunnites and Shi'ites have started to think in a united way. The sectarian system of the country seeks to create tension and differences, but the latest experiences have brought us together, and incidents have not overcome the spirit of unity.

Consequently, no real Shi'ite-Sunnite dispute has been provoked. At the slightest provocation, scholars and people of goodwill on both sides immediately defuse the situation. Lebanon is actually a model for the Islamic world, demonstrating how Shi'ites and Sunnites can live together in harmony, without the tension that prevails between the two sides in other parts of the world. This encourages those who sincerely call for Islamic unity to double their efforts to achieve this objective.

[Malih] How do you explain Sunnite fears of Shi'ite hegemony?

[Fadlallah] I think that people are being scared, rather than are

afraid. I do not believe that thinking Sunnites have this problem. There is no such thing as Shi'ite hegemony in the political sense. It is true that the majority of the armed elements within West Beirut are Shi'ites, and there is no real Sunnite armed presence. When people who are unarmed are faced with armed people, especially when infractions and violations of the law occur, they are bound to feel insecure.

However, given greater understanding, and the punishment of all infractions and violations, I believe it is possible to greatly reduce the elements of fear, if not cancel it completely.

[Malih] Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah is accused of being a religious fanatic. How do you respond to this accusation?

[Fadlallah] People who say this should read the writings of Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and listen to his lectures, and follow his daily routine of social life. They will then discover that he is accused of being too moderate.

[Malih] The leadership of Hezbollah has been associated with your name despite your denials. Why was this organization given this name, and is it true that Hezbollah is behind the car-bomb attack on the American Embassy in 'Awkar, as some reports submitted to the American administration have suggested?

[Fadlallah] The claim that I am the leader of Hezbollah is baseless and untrue. I am not the leader of any organization or party. It seems that when they could not find any prominent figure to pin this label on, and when they observed that I was active in the Islamic field, they decided to settle on me. It could be that may of those who are considered to be part of Hezbollah live with us in the mosque and they might have confidence in me. Who is the leader of Hezbollah? Obviously, he is the one who has influence. So, when they cannot see anybody on the scene, no spokesman, no prominent political figure speaking out for Hezbollah, they try to nail it on a specific person, whose name is then linke to every incident.

[Malih] Who is the leader of Hezbollah?

[Fadlallah] You can ask any of the party members. If I were the leader I would have the courage to say so and I would assume my responsibility. I think I can humbly say that my stands demonstrate my personal courage; I have always spoken out plainly. On several occasion I have spoken out strongly. We took a firm public stand against the May 17 agreement, and a firm stand during the presidential elections. Had I been the president or leader of Hezbollah or some other group, I assure you I have enough courage to own up to that fact. It simply is not so.

The media have absolutely no grounds to name me as leader of Hezbollah, but this is part of the tactics on the Lebanese scene.

Hezbollah is a party, just like other parties in Lebanon which resort to the use of arms. It might be responsible for infractions and violations of the law, and they might have made mistakes, even though their mistakes are far less than those of others.

As for the accusation that they were involved in the attack on the embassy, I can only say that I have no knowledge whatsoever of this operation. I don't think that even the secret service is yet aware of the identity of the perpetrators. We have no idea, and, consequently, cannot say anything.

[Malih] What are your links with the Islamic Jihad and the Islamic al-Da'wah (call) Party?

[Fadlallah] I have repeatedly said that the Islamic Jihad is a mere telephone organization. I still insist on this view. I have never come across anything called the Islamic Jihad all the years I have been in Lebanon. Furthermore, I have no ties or links whatever with the Al-Da'wah Party.

[Malih] What is the true nature of your relations with Nabih Birri, Amal Movement, Shaykh Shams al-Din and Mufti Qabalan?

[Fadlallah] It is a relationship of friendship, agreement and disagreement. In other words, it is a natural relationship. This is especially true of Shaykh Shams al-Din, with whom I have been friends since our childhood days. My relationship with him is both a personal and a working relationship.

[Malih] Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah was the target of several assassination attempts over the years because of his political stands? Could you elaborate on this fact?

[Fadlallah] I might have been the target of assassination attempts at the hands of elements accused of being backed by the Iraqi Ba'th Party, as the result of my opposition to the system of government in Iraq. I consider it to be an oppressive and cruel regime, which unjustly kills people. My position was publicly stated at the time when the Iraqi Ba'th Party was engaged in assassinations in Lebanon.

[Malih] What is your relationship with Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic revolution in Iran, and what is your opinion of this revolution?

[Fadlallah] Imam Khomeyni represents an authority. He is a great and inspiring Islamic leader, and, as such, we hold him in high esteem, and believe that he represents a mature and inspiring Islamic leadership.

The Islamic revolution has managed to rally the people around it, and it is still immensely popular. It is an attempt to apply Islam. It makes mistakes, but it has the courage to admit its mistakes. It is trying to apply Islam to all aspects of life, but I do not hink that it is 100 percent successful yet because the changing of society requires time. However, I think that image of the revolution presented by the media is 90 percent distorted.

That is why I said in my lecture at the college of arts that people should visit Iran as tourists, not official guests, to discover the situation as it really is. You will discover that the Iranian regime, with its mistakes, is the most humane regime in the world.

[Malih] What do you think of the call for the abolition of political sectarianism in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] We believe that political sectarianism is no good for

Lebanon. As such, we feel that its abolition could solve many of Lebanon's problems and could help extricate Lebanon from its present tense situation. Such a move would at least provide temporary relief.

[Malih] How would we then reconcile the Islamic teachings and the status of Moslems in such a state?

[Fadlallah] Just like all people in terms of strategy, I consider all other situations in terms of stages.

[Malih] Is the national resistance movement in the South linked to the concept of Jihad, and, as such, is the resistance confined to Shi'ite southerners?

[Fadlallah] The resistance is nationalistic, and mostly Islamic, in terms of its direction, and is based on the Islamic view that Moslems must defend their land against any invader or usurper. Likewise, they must defend their freedom and independence. As such, the resistance in Lebanon can be considered to be a religious act, as well as being a military act and an act of Jihad. This is why the resistance has mounted despite the difficult and bad economic, political, military and security conditions. There is a spirit of resistance. For the first time, an internal resistance has sprung up that has no external ties and is not sponsored by any regimes. In fact, there is a counter-current in some circles that are afraid of the resistance. This is the first resistance of its kind.

With a Shi'ite majority in the South, and with the Shi'ites bearing the brunt of the occupation, it was only natural that the Shi'ites would be the dominant group in the resistance. There is also resistance from the Sunnites in the area, especially from the youth and the religious scholars. I do not know of any resistance from non-Moslems. I have no idea of any resistance being mounted by the Christians.

[Malih] What do you know about the Saudi Arabian Consulate incident? What is the status of relations between Lebanese Shi'ites and Saudi Arabia?

[Fadlallah] When the Saudi Consulate incident occurred I was in Saudi Arabia on a pilgrimage. As far as I can gather, prior to the incident there was no anti-Saudi political trend as far as the Saudi state was concerned. Saudi Arabia had decided to ban the entry this year of all Lebanese pilgrims, both Shi'ite and Sunnite. It did not want to confront the pilgrims directly, so it was hiding behind the pretext that there was no embassy in Lebanon. The authorities tried to deal with the situation, while the pilgrims kept on waiting for some response until they realized that Saudi Arabia simply did not want them.

According to my information, the incident started off spontaneously in the form of a protest, but in the chaos and confusion things got out of hand following attempts to put up pictures of Imam Khomeyni, and the response of the Saudi security personnel, which ultimately resulted in the burning of the consulate. We regard this as an act of mischief, and believe it might have been the result of misplaced zeal which was exploited by elements that used this zeal to achieve this objective.

In my estimation, Saudi Arabia benefited rather than lost from this situation. Had the protest and sit-in remained peaceful, it would have been an open declaration that Saudi Arabia was restricting the pilgrimage, an accusation that Saudi Arabia is sensitive to. As it worked out, Saudi Arabia was able to claim that it was not preventing pilgrimage to the holy places, even though they had issued a specific decision to that effect.

They issued visas the same day and claimed that they were not restricting pilgrimage, but they cited the Gulf war and the situation in Lebanon.

Naturally, we're not pleased at all with this (attack on the embassy), as I clearly and publicly stated on my return. I do not believe in the burning or the attacking of embassies, and I believe that it only leads to negative results, even internally. I said that publicly even when the Libyan Embassy was attacked, even though that incident had emotional, Shi'ite overtones related to the fate of Imam Sayyid Musa al-Sadr.

I do not believe that this was politically motivated, judging from the conditions which were prevailing prior to my departure on my pilgrimage.

[Malih] What about the relations between the Lebanese Shi'ites and Saudi Arabia?

[Fadlallah] Saudi Arabia has a negative position towards the Shi'ites of the world, including those in Saudi Arabia. The Shi'ites feel this. It is fighting Shi'ism around the world, and has added the political dimension to its other forms of opposition to Shi'ites.

The Shi'ites of Lebanon do not regard Saudi Arabia as an opponent they should be fighting against, and all along, there had been no attack on any Saudi person or establishment by the Shi'ites. The consulate incident was the result of the pilgrimage dispute.

This indicates that the Shi'ites do not have a negative attitude against Saudi (personnel and establishments) in Lebanon. This was a spontaneous incident. As far as I know, there was supposed to be a Shi'ite-Sunnite demonstration, but, at the last minute, the Sunnites withdrew. This is what I was told.

[Malih] How do you evaluate the Syrian role in Lebanon and what is your relationship with Syria?

[Fadlallah] I have no organic ties with Syria at present. Syria's role in Lebanon is based on its political strategy, be it related to its own security or to its foreign policy on the regional level. Consequently, it is hard to separate Syria from its role in Lebanon. This is why we described the May 17 agreement as unrealistic. It was stillborn because it tried to establish a relationship with one side, even though it was well known ahead of time that the Syrian presence in Lebanon would oppose this pact. As such, it was our conviction that the May 17 agreement was designed to polish the image of Israel and to throw the ball into the Syrian court, that it might appear as the obstacle to any solution in Lebanon.

Obviously, the Syrian role in Lebanon is basic and realistic, and emanates from the nature of Lebanese internal conditions and the conditions in the region as a whole.

[Malih] What do you think of National Democratic Front which Walid Junblatt is scheduled to unveil today?

[Fadlallah] It seems to me that any front that is formed as a reaction to certain conditions will not last long. It seems this front has emerged to confront the Jordanian-Egyptian line-up, so it is a reaction to events. Of course, this is in keeping with the attempts of certain Lebanese political parties to carve out a prominent position for themselves on the scene, after a period of relative eclipse due to past events.

Explosion in North Kills One, Wounds Two
NC181222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] There was an explosion near the Shell gas station in Shikka inside a BMW vehicle, wounding three persons who were inside the car. They were taken to the Al-Batrun hospital. One of them died.

Amal Infiltration in Beirut Area Stopped
NC190739 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] This morning the Al-Hadath quarter was the site of an infiltration attempt by a group of Amal gunmen. Citizen Antoine Farsukh was wounded and taken to the hospital. The Amal gunmen were encircled and eight of them were arrested. They were handed over to the authorities for interrogation.

'Guarded Calm' Follows Firing on Mountain
NC190549 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Guarded calm prevails on the mountain's combat lines this morning following a flareup last night as a result of socialist attacks on Lebanese Army positions, observers' positions, and nearby residential areas. The socialists used machine guns, artillery, and rockets.

In another development, Amal gunmen blocked the Al-Barbir-Museum crossing point last night and erected roadblocks.

Security Forces Cut Road Following Roadblocks
NC191102 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Security forces cut the Galerie Sim'an-mar Mikha'il road as a precautionary measure following the erection of mobile roadblocks on the airport road and stationary roadblocks on secondary roads. Meanwhile, gunmen have been spotted on the periphery of the Al-Raml al-'Ali Mosque.

RFL: Pro-'Arafat Groups Arrive in Tripoli
NC191240 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Information from the north indicates that Nafidh al-Zu'bi has started establishing a military organization in Tripoli under the cover of the Tripoli families grouping. A Tripoli politician is financing the organization. It is worth mentioning that Al-Zu'bi had close ties with Yasir 'Arafat and with the Fatah security apparatus.

The information adds that a pro-'Arafat Palestinian group recently arrived in Tripoli and soon joined the Al-Jurmuq forces, which number 300 men. The group took up positions in Al-Mina' and is coordinating militarily with the Hashim Minqarah group in the Islamic Unification Movement.

Meanwhile, obstacles continue to impede the implementation of the security plan in Tripoli due to the continuing differences and lack of confidence between the two sides.

In another development, the Islamic Unification Movement continues its slander campaign against Prime Minister Rashid Karami through its weekly publication. The movement's gunmen are demanding protection money ranging from 100 to 1,000 pounds from shops and establishments. Tripoli Mufti Shaykh Taha al-Sabunji has so far failed to stop these practices.

Israeli Patrol Attacked; Mufti, Others Threatened
NC190714 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters are continuing their strikes against the Israeli enemy forces and the militias cooperating with them. The fighters attacked an occupation forces' patrol in Al-'Aqbiyah near Tyre. There were no reports about Israeli casualties because the occupation forces sealed off the area.

A high-ranking Israeli military mission inspected the crossing points on the Al-Awwali River yesterday and surveyedrecent measures adopted by the occupation forces following the Bisri operation. The occupation authorities will reopen the Batir-Jazzin crossing point in the morning until noon today and will close it again until Sunday because of the Jewish weekend holiday. The occupation forces yesterday closed the crossing point and stopped travel via Al-Jiyah harbor for the same reason.

Reports from Sidon say that Mufti Jalal al-Din has received a written message threatening to blow up his vehicle if he continues his political activity. The message warned the mufti that he will be punished before the Israeli withdrawal from the south. Similar messages were addressed to political and spiritual leaders in Sidon.

Israeli Forces Hit by Remote Control Bomb
NC191321 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Lebanese national resistance fighters detonated a bomb by remote control at dawn today when an enemy patrol was passing on the road to Juwayya in Tyre District. Citizens said that they heard intensive machine gun fire after the explosion and that the occupation forces cut the main road and searched nearby areas. No information is available on the patrol's casualties.

Meanwhile, an unidentified person hurled a bomb at the National Guard post at the entrance to 'Ayn al-Hulwah last night. No casualties were reported among the post's personnel, who returned fire with machine guns.

Materials on Conclusion of Al-Asad Moscow Visit

Al-Asad Returns to Damascus

JN181604 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon after concluding a cordial working visit to the USSR during which he held successful talks with President Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and members of the Soviet leadership. The talks achieved their objectives, by further strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR in various fields. This is in addition to increasing Soviet support for Syria's efforts to strengthen its defense capabilities and to struggle for the achievement of the Arab nation's rights.

Al-Asad was seen off at the airport by Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman ofthe USSR Council of Ministers; Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the USSR; Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and a number of high-ranking state and party officials. He was also seen off by Muhammad al-Halabi, Syrian ambassador in the USSR, and Feliks Fedotov, USSR ambassador in Syria. The joint statement on Al-Asad's visit to the USSR will be broadcast at 2030 today. State and party members who accompanied President al-Asad during his visit returned with him.

KUNA on 'Doubts About Results'

LD181444 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1404 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (KUNA) — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad left Moscow today for home at the end of his 4-day visit to the USSR, which he extended by 1 day, amid doubts about its results. Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko was not present at the airport to see the Syrian president off, just as he was not present to welcome him on his arrival last Monday. Soviet Premier Nikolay Tikhinov headed those who saw the Syrian president off. Reliable sources told KUNA here that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad extended his visit to the USSR by 1 day to complete the discussion of issues about which no agreement had been reached. Indications are that the main reason for the extension of the visit by 1 day lies in the failure of the two sides yesterday to reach a final formula for possible strategic cooperation between the USSR and Syria.

AL-BA'TH Raps 'Falsehoods'

JN190804 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 19 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "Syria and the Soviet Union in One Front," *AL-BA'TH* says: President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union has aroused concern among Zionist and imperialist circles and their allies. These circles expressed their rancor through deceptive, obscurantist analyses to poison the atmosphere. They expressed ideas hostile to the joint line of struggle between Syria and the friendly Soviet Union.

AL-BA'TH adds: The ties that link Syria to its friends and allies are imposed by struggle in the same trench against the common enemy. Syria, under its leader President Hafiz al-Asad, is establishing strategic foundations and firm bases for ties in harmony with an accurate differentiation among various international stands on the Arab nation's causes and aims.

AL-BA'TH says that, in standing in the face of imperialist aggression and domination, the USSR seeks no private ends except to affirm its principles' stands on supporting oppressed peoples fighting for their rights. The Arab nation's enemies know that Al-Asad's visit to the USSR is an answer to the mobilization of U.S. conspiratorial assets in the region. The enemies know that Syria is a pan-Arab power and that the USSR is an important world power that supports and backs Arab rights. Therefore, the enemies had to resort to spreading their usual falsehoods and delusions.

Concluding, *AL-BA'TH* says: The salient fact remains that Syria is a front of confrontation against hostile U.S. plots and ambitions. It has proven this by challenging the various means of U.S. and Israeli pressure. Hence, Syria is gaining international prestige as a pioneer of world forces that oppose U.S. policy. This makes its relations with the USSR stronger and more profound than the rancorous imagine. Strategy, not tactics, has equipped Syria with the means of shifting the balance in the Arab nation's interest and promoting its aims of liberation and victory.

TISHRIN Views 'Successful' Visit

JN191117 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Oct (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN* said here today that President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow achieved its full objectives at a time when the Camp David parties are trying to revive capitulatory deals through the Jordanian- Palestinian loophole, especially after the Zionist project in Lebanon was undermined.

In its commentary under the headline "The Successful Visit," the newspaper explained that anybody reading the joint statement carefully will notice the identity of the two countries' viewpoints on volatile issues in the region and in the world, the Soviet support for the positions of the Arab national liberation movement led by Syria, and the effective Soviet contribution to confronting U.S.-Israeli attempts to impose unjust and unfair conditions on the Arabs through unilateral deals.

The newspaper said that the statement stressed the continuation of assistance to Syria to strengthen its defensive capabilities. The Soviet Union also considered this visit an important contribution to efforts to promote friendship and understanding and expand cooperation between the two countries.

The newspaper said President al-Asad's visit to Moscow was necessary to hold consultations with the Soviet leadership, espe-

cially since Syrian-Soviet relations have risen to the level of strategic relations. As expected, the friendly Soviet Union reiterated, through President Chernenko, its absolute and full support for Syria's national trend and its pan-Arab, principled, and honest positions.

TISHRIN concluded: President Hafiz al-Asad's visit, which gained much satisfaction and wide welcome among the ranks of the Soviet people, will reflect positively on the Arab national liberation movement and strengthen the country's leading role in confronting and foiling unilateral deals and capitulatory plans, regaining the nation's rights, and securing further victories.

Joint Statement Issued

For the Moscow PRAVDA in Russian and Damascus Television in Arabic versions of the Soviet-Syrian joint statement on the visit to the USSR of President Hafiz al-Asad, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 19 October Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

Al-Ahmar Meets With Eritrean Official

JN181420 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 18 Oct (SANA) — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, today met with Salah 'Abadi, member of the Eritrean Liberation Front Executive Committee and head of the Front's Foreign Relations Office. Talks dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region and in the Horn of Africa. 'Abadi expressed his appreciation for Syria's firm, principled stands in confronting the reactionary, Zionist, and imperialist plot and in supporting the Eritrean people's struggle for a just solution to their issue.

Conditions for Lebanon Talks, Withdrawal Stated

No Talks Through Commission

TA181818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Lebanon is demanding that Israel declare acceptance of the armistice commission between the two countries as a condition for the beginning of negotiations between the two sides. This, according to a report on the Voice of Lebanon.

Israel has refused to negotiate with Lebanon through the joint cease-fire commission since the 1982 war in Lebanon. The commission was set up in 1949 and last met 4 years ago.

Israeli officials say Israel will not agree to negotiate within the framework of the old armistice agreement. The official [as heard] told reporter David Essing that Israel is ready to hold contacts with the Lebanese through the United Nations and UNIFIL, the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon. Israeli observers told our reporter that negotiating through the armistice commission would nullify the understanding in the May 17 agreement that calls for Israeli-Lebanese cooperation in fighting terrorism across the Lebanese border. None of the armistice commissions between Israel and its Arab neighbors is operative today. The Israeli Cabinet is soon to discuss Lebanon; however, no date has been set.

UN Auspices Possible

TA181930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Israel will agree to conduct talks with Lebanon over the security arrangements under UN auspices or those of UNIFIL, but not within the framework of the Israeli-Lebanese cease-fire commission. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that Jerusalem hopes it will be possible to begin talks between Israeli and Lebanese officers with a UNIFIL representative as chairman. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that security sources comment that Lebanon's demand to resume the cease-fire commission's activity proves that Lebanon does not take seriously negotiations to work out the security arrangements.

UN sources in Israel have not yet received Lebanon's official reaction to talks under UN auspices.

UN Cannot Chair Talks

TA190519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Israel maintains that the direct talks with Lebanon on security arrangements could be conducted under UN auspices, but is demanding that the deliberations not be chaired by UN officers. Israel has also made it clear to the UNIFIL commander that it is rejecting Lebanon's demand for talks in the framework of the armistice commission. It was emphasized that Israel continues to believe in and request direct talks between IDF officers and officers from the Lebanese Army.

Partial Unilateral Pullout Possible

TA190644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0610 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Despite the announcement issued by the prime minister's office on the holiday eve, Shim'on Peres still believes that Israel will carry out a partial withdrawal from Lebanon if no arrangement is reached with the Syrians. This was reported to us this morning by a top government source, who added that Israel considers its demand for a reinforced deployment of UNIFIL as the main axis of the security arrangements in southern Lebanon, adding that the deployment of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] is only marginal. Here are some more details by our correspondent Moshe Hakohen:

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres still believes Israel must retain the option of a partial unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon if Syria refuses to reach an arrangement with us. This will involve a withdrawal from the western and central sectors of Lebanon. This was reported by a top government source in reaction to reports that Mr Peres has backed down from the idea of a partial withdrawal following the objections raised by Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin. The source explained that the communique issued by the prime minister's office on the holiday eve in coordination with the Foreign and Defense Ministries — issued purportedly to reflect Israel's official position on an arrangement in Lebanon — does not cancel the remarks made by the prime minister in the United States and later at the Cabinet session regarding the possibility of a partial unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. The government claims that the official communique only clarifies that there will not be a full unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, as misunderstood on the basis of Peres' declarations in the United States.

Another important point in the comments made by the government source: The role of the ASL in the security arrangements for southern Lebanon is marginal. Israel regards UNIFIL as the main pillar for the security arrangements in southern Lebnaon. Apparently this means that if an arrangement is reached that will guarantee a UNIFIL deployment in southern Lebanon which Israel considers satisfactory and which is met by Syrian understanding and Lebanese consent, Israel would not insist on turning the ASL into the central military element in southern Lebanon as a precondition for its withdrawal.

It should again be pointed out that this position differs from the official Israeli statement issued on Wednesday. That statement placed equal importance on the continued existence of the ASL under General Lahd and its deployment in the southern strip of southern Lebanon, and the deployment of UNIFIL in the northern sector [of southern Lebanon] from the Mediterranean to Al-Biqa'. This evidently reflects a difference in the assessment and emphasis between the prime minister's office and the Foreign and Defense Ministries, although the official communique issued on Wednesday created the impression that an understanding was reached between these three ministries on Lebanon.

One more point in this context: Israel is rejecting Lebanon's demand that the military negotiations be conducted within the framework of the 1949 armistice commission. This was stated by security sources in Jerusalem. Israel believes that since Lebanon had proclaimed the abolition of the armistice agreements back

in 1967, Israel sees no room to review the activity of this commission based on those agreements. Israel will be prepared to engage in direct negotiations with Lebanon on a military level, and under the UN aegis, but it opposes the United Nation's presiding over the meetings between Israel and Lebanon. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin explained this to General Callaghan, the commander of UNIFIL, during their meeting last week. This came in reaction to the Lebanese proposal, relayed by Callaghan, that the debate be held within the framework of the armistice commission.

Political sources in the capital mentioned the fact that even at the outset of the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations that led to the 17 May accord, Lebanon had demanded that the talks be held within the framework of the armistice commission, but later rescinded its demand. The sources added that in the talks with Lebanon, whenever they are held, Israel will insist that the ASL be converted into a unit within the Lebanese Army, similar to the southern brigade mentioned in the 17 May accord with Lebanon — an agreement revoked by Beirut because of pressure from Damascus.

Harsher Punishment of 'Terrorist' Supporters

TA190531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The IDF will take firmer measures and severely punish villagers from southern Lebanon suspected of carrying out terrorist activities or assisting terrorists. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the IDF has already begun implementing punitive measures against some southern Lebanese villages from which terrorists set out or in which they concealed arms and took refuge. The punitive measures include detentions, searches, curfews, and the demolition of houses from which the terrorists set out.

Our correspondent adds that the Shi'ites' role in assisting anti-IDF activity has recently increased. The IDF units are searching vast areas of southern Lebanon to locate a terrorist squad that penetrated late last week and encountered an IDF unit.

Druze Deny PLO Collaboration

TA191156 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Members of the Israeli Druze task force categorically deny that the Lebanese Druze in the Al-Shuf mountains and the Al-Biqa' valley have been collaborating with the PLO. Vivien Royston reports:

In view of the mounting accusations by Israeli officials that Druze villagers in the Al-Shuf mountains and the Al-Kharrub (al-Qalin) region are assisting in sheltering members of the PLO, Shinuy Member of Knesset [MK] Zaydan 'Atshah told me today that members of the Druze task force have just returned from a fact-finding mission in the Al-Shuf and Al-Biqa' regions. Was there any sign of collaboration?

[Begin 'Atshah recording] We found no cases of any Druze villages providing assistance to or harboring PLO members or engaging in such activities. I certainly can challenge the Israeli authorities. If they should find any such movement or activities or locations or offices in any Druze village, I will say to the Israeli authorities: You can certainly destroy and demolish those houses and arrest those people. But we did not find any basis for all these allegations, and no movements or presence of any PLO activities in the Al-Shuf mountains. [end recording]

'Atshah also claimed that even the Israeli Army, with its far superior intelligence resources, has trouble tracking the movements of the PLO and, in his opinion, the Druze community is being used as a scapegoat in Lebanon.

More Traffic Restrictions in South Lebanon

TA181950 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1933 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 18 Oct (ITIM) — At the end of the week further restrictions were imposed on the movement of vehicles and people from north of the Al-Awwali River to the south. It has been reported that all residents of the Al-Kharrub region will be required to have permanent travel passes when they move from the north to the south.

ITIM correspondent Shlomo Hadad reports that this move was made on a recommendation by the IDF liaison unit in Lebanon because of the increase in the number of incidents in which hostile elements from outside the Christian strip have tried to infiltrate through the passes into the Al-Kharrub area under IDF control, in order to carry out attacks there.

The liaison unit says that this move will not hamper freedom of movement or the residents' status. The aim is to stop the terrorists taking advantage of the calm in the area to infiltrate and carry out attacks. This move is also being explained to the local dignitaries, so that it will not be interpreted as an attempt to restrict their movements.

It has been reported that the liaison unit in Lebanon has made special arrangements to permit students from the Al-Kharrub area to arrive at their schools in Sidon on time.

Solidarity Demonstration for Jailed IDF Soldiers

TA181934 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] This afternoon dozens of members of the There Is a Limit movement held a demonstration of solidarity at the military prison in which three of their colleagues are being detained. On the hill overlooking the jail they posted banners calling for the IDF's immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. The movement's spokesman told our correspondent that at a time when Gush Emunim is conducting a campaign of solidarity with the Jewish terrorist organization, it is important for the other face of Israel to make its voice heard and show its willingness to fight for the country's humanitarian image.

Peres: No Preconditions for Talks With Jordan

TA190924 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 p 6

[Ilan Kfir report]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has relayed a message to King Husayn through U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The message notes: We are prepared to negotiate without preconditions or a timetable.

The U.S. secretary expressed satisfaction about Peres' message which, in his opinion, creates an appropriate background for a political process between Israel and Jordan.

U.S. To Increase Territories Aid Significantly

TA190927 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 p 24

[Pinhas 'Inbari report]

[Excerpt] The United States is about to increase significantly its financial aid to the territories and has even completed a study of development projects calling for U.S. assistance. Washington is currently examining these projects and the U.S. aid agencies in East Jerusalem are awaiting their approval. Our correspondent learned this from public figures in the territories who applied for U.S. assistance.

In his talks with Minister Pat in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz raised his plan for improving the standard of living in the territories. During his visit to Washington, Peres conferred with Jewish and Arab businessmen who are interested in financing development projects in the territories.

Meanwhile, several figures representing various economic and social sectors in the territories have departed for the United States to attend a socioeconomic symposium on the territories, apparently aimed at breaking ground for increased U.S. economic involvement there.

Sharon Hopes for More Jewish Settlers in Hebron

TA191053 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Minister of Commerce and Industry Ari'el Sharon believes that the Jewish community of Hebron is going to grow. Joining several thousand people celebrating the Simchas Torah [Rejoicing of the Torah] festival in the town last night, Sharon said there had been Jews living in Hebron in the past; there would be Jews living there for thousands of years in the future.

Visit Termed Private

TA191111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1041 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Government sources have said that the participation of a minister in events like the Simchas Torah celebrations in Hebron does not require Cabinet approval. The sources said that any minister participating in such an event does so on a private basis and is not representing the Israeli Government. This was stated in reaction to criticism of Minister Ari'el Sharon for having participated in the Simchas Torah festivities in Hebron yesterday, at which he claimed to represent the Cabinet. Among the critics this morning were opposition Knesset members and Minister Amnon Rubinstein.

ALGERIA

AFP: France's Mitterrand Arrives for 'Brief Visit'

NC191145 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Algiers, Oct 19 (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived here today for a brief visit aimed at healing the rift in Franco-Algerian relations caused by his surprise trip to neighbouring Morocco last August. Mr Mitterrand was met on his arrival here by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

During the visit, to last several hours, the two leaders are to hold talks expected to center on recent French diplomatic moves in the region which have angered the Algerian Government. Today's talks between Mr Mitterrand and President Chadli will be the fifth time the two heads of state have met.

Mr Mitterrand was accompanied by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, who is scheduled to meet with his counterpart, Taleb Ibrahimi, for talks on bilateral issues. Mr Mitterrand is due to return to Paris later today.

Begins Talks With Bendjedid

LD191348 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Algerian-French political talks began a short while ago between Brother President Chadli Bendjedid and President Francois Mitterrand. Other talks are going on between the Algerian and the French delegation. Taking part on the Algerian side are: Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, Politburo member and foreign minister; Abdel Hamid Ibrahimi, alternate member of the Politburo and prime minister; Abdelaziz Khellef, minister of trade; Larbi Belkher, secretary general of the Presidency. On the French side, those taking part are: Claude Cheysson, minister of external affairs; Jean-Louis Bianco, secretary general of the Presidency; and (Michel Boubel) adviser [word indistinct]. Also taking part in the talks are the Algerian ambassador to France and the French ambassador in Algeria.

LIBYA

New Soviet Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD181913 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Muharram, 18 Oct, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki this morning received the credentials of the new Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, Oleg Gerasimov Perespykin.

Presenting his credential documents, the ambassador gave a speech in which he highly appreciated the brave stand of the Libyan Arab people and its revolution leader in resisting all forms of imperialist provocations and conspiracies. He then said: On this occasion, I would like to emphasize that the Soviet leadership and Soviet people highly appreciate and deeply respect the Libyan Arab people and that the Soviet Union highly respect the desire of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to live with other nations in peace and friendship.

He went on to stress that the Soviet-Libyan Arab relations are based on principles and mutual respect. He added by saying, the Soviet Union and the Jamahiriyah are leading the struggle for strengthening world peace and security, a fight against serious plots by colonialism and its agents in the Middle East and the African Continent, for finding a just solution to the Palestinian cause and for turning the Mediterranean Sea into a zone of peace and friendship.

In reply, secretary of People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau emphasized the cooperation existing between the Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union and praised the two countries' solidarity in confronting all forms of imperialism. The secretary pointed out that there is a mutual desire to develop and to strengthen cooperation relations in all fields whereby the mutual interest of the two friendly countries will be served.

At-Turayki Meets With Tunisian Counterpart

LD190652 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, had a meeting this evening with Brother Beji Caid Essebsi, Tunisian foreign minister. During the meeting, there was a review of bilateral relations and ways and means of promoting and consolidating cooperation relations in all domains.

They also reviewed agreements already carried out, concluded during the joint meeting of the General People's Congress of the Jamahiriyah and the Tunisian Council of Ministers, and preparations for the next joint meeting. During this meeting, there was also a discussion of Arab, Islamic, African, and international issues of common interest.

Brother Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian foreign minister, arrived this evening in Tripoli for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He is scheduled to have contacts and talks over the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries.

He told a JANA correspondent: We will continue contacts and talks over the already implemented decisions of the joint meeting between the General People's Congress of the Jamahiriyah and the Tunisian Council of Ministers to give an impulse to existing cooperation for the good of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

On the decision by the Jordanian regime to resume relations with the Egyptian regime, Brother Beji Caid Essebsi said: This act undertaken by Jordan is an open violation of the Baghdad summit decisions, and Jordan was one of the countries that attended it and agreed to its decisions. Violation of the decisions of an Arab summit means that there is no joint Arab action and no respect for our decisions and commitments. Tunisia is for respect of decisions of the Arab summit.

MOROCCO

Hasan Envoy Cited on Ties With Libya

PM181521 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 9 Oct 84 p 5

[Interview with King Hasan's envoy Abdallah Laroui by Jorgen Siegumfeldt: "Morocco and Libya: Focus on Economy"]

[Text] "Economic cooperation between Morocco and Libya is the first point in the treaty agreement between the two countries — and this also gives priorities in the development of cooperation between them. This is why it is no surprise that the two countries express different views on other questions. For there is no suggestion of a state merger, but of pragmatic cooperation between independent nations."

That is how Moroccan King Hasan's envoy, Professor Abdallah Laroui, formulated the real basis of the surprising cooperation agreement reached between the conservative and Western-oriented Morocco and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's radical regime in Libya. The agreement attracted attention throughout the world which is also the reason why Denmark was visited yesterday by the royal envoy. Prof Laroui had an opportunity to give Foreign Ministry representatives an account of Morocco's reasons for entering into the agreement with Libya. Later the royal envoy was received by Prime Minister Schlueter.

The agreement, unlike Libya's previous "unconsummated marriages" — treaty-enshrined "unions" with other Arab nations — did not come about on the initiative of Libya's Col al-Qadhdhafi. It was Moroccan King Hasan II who made the first move; and it was an offer Col Al-Qadhdhafi could not refuse.

The agreement also contains two major advantages for both parties. Libya has oil revenues and a great need for expertise and labor. Morocco needs to expand exports and develope markets for what has become quite a large labor reserve; as is well known, there is no longer the great demand for guest workers in Europe. The agreement is also a confirmation that Libya no longer supports the Polisario partisans fighting against Moroccan rule over the former Spanish Sahara.

"Yes, the latter has often been stressed as the reason for reaching the agreement, but the process was rather the opposite," Prof Laroui said in an interview with *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE*. "As early as last year Libya shifted its position in the Western Sahara conflict, so when we began negotiations for a treaty this year there were no problems in that area."

The treaty's four main areas give an indication of the priorities in cooperation — the economy, practical coordination, policy, and diplomacy. Thus in the economic field it has already been agreed that 40,000 Moroccans will work in Libya — and a number of practical arrangements, such as the lifting of visa requirements and the appointment of cooperation groups, are an expression of the practical coordination of the two countries' day-to-day life. Further along the road it is hoped that the agreement will also lead to a greater degree of political cooperation. Not the least of which is the Middle East question.

But Prof Laroui stressed that both countries will preserve their independence and integrity. He also stressed that it is an "open" agreement to which other Arab and African countries can accede — the pact is not in conflict with either the Arab League or the OAU. There is no suggestion of a sword directed against anyone, he said.

Regarding the Western Sahara conflict, Libya's agreement with Morocco has confirmed that Algeria is now alone in supporting the Polisario partisans — and has therefore now expanded this support. Asked whether it is a problem that Algeria now seems to have intensified its support for Polisario, Prof Laroui said: "Algeria has escalated its actions for the time being. That is the price Morocco has to pay for the agreement."

However, he hopes that in the slightly longer term there will be a solution regarding Algeria and the Polisario, and he confirmed that Morocco is willing to allow a referendum to be held in the Western Sahara over its future relationship with Morocco. He also confirmed that there is still disagreement on the technical details...

Asked whether an agreement has not harmed relations with the United Stated — particularly in a U.S. election year — Prof Laroui replied: "There have, of course, been some problems in public opinion and in the media. I believe that the U.S. Government has understood our motives and reasons — and it is the government with which we negotiate, Not the media."

He said that the treaty with Libya will be more durable and effective than Libya's other agreements and takes the view that it is perhaps possible to see indirect results of this cooperation in the form of the agreement reached between Libya and France on troop withdrawals from Chad. He also pointed out that diplomats have stressed that Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and his entourage encountered a very understanding attitude during their recent visit to Libya. Prof Laroui takes this as a sign of a new atmosphere in Libya.

Libya Appoints Arab-Africa Union Official

LD181439 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Rabat, Oct 17 (MAP) — Libyan President Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi appointed Tuesday Mr Kamal Hasan al-Maqhur, Libyan secretary (minister) of petroleum, as assistant secretary general of the Arabo-African union in conformity with the treaty instituting the union.

It is to be recalled that King Hassan II of Morocco had appointed the Moroccan minister of cooperation, Mr Abdelouahed Radi as secretary general of the union.

Clause 3 of the Arabo-African union treaty stipulates that the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat are to be alternatively located in one of the two countries and that the secretary general is to be from the country in which the Secretariat headquarters are not located. The assistant secretary general is from the other state. The period of alternation is two years.

On the other hand, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received here Tuesday the Moroccan ambassador to Libya, Mr Abdelhakim Laraki.

Briefs

Belkziz Receives New Envoys — Rabat, Oct 17 (MAP) — Four newly appointed ambassadors to Morocco presented here Tuesday a copy of their credentials to the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, Dr Abdelouahed Belkziz. These are: Mr Egim Winsnes, ambassador of Norway, Mr Karolis Juhani Lassila of Finland, Mr (Awad Fayyad al-Nasri) of Jordan and Mr Jasse Yusuf Jamal of Qatar. [Text][*Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 18 Oct 84 LD*]

SUDAN

Shammu on Arab Summit, Red Sea Conference

JN181106 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (SUNA) — National Guidance and Information Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu has asserted that Sudan refuses to participate in the emergency Arab summit conference Morocco is calling for because such a summit will be of no avail. At a news conference in Tunis, Shammu said that holding an emergency summit to discuss the resumption of relations between Egypt and Jordan would intensify Arab splits and disputes. The information minister said that the last Arab summit conference allowed every Arab state to adopt the decision it wanted on restoring relations with Egypt, expressing his belief that Jordan's decision came in implementation of what would have been decided at a new summit.

In another development Shammu announced that the conference of Red Sea littoral states' foreign ministers will be held in Khartoum soon to discuss the security of that waterway. He noted that Foreign Ministher Hashim 'Uthamn agreed with the foreign ministers of the Red Sea states to hold this meeting while they were in New York to attend UN General Assembly's 39th session.

Shammu asserted that implementation of Islamic law in Sudan is taking place free from religious frenzy and bigotry, contrary to what our enemies say.

'Ali Muhammad Shammu participated in meetings of Arab information ministers which concluded two days ago.

Industry Minister Leaves for Damascus Conference

JN181505 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 18 Oct (SUNA) -- Industry Minister Muhammad Bashir al-Waqi' and his delegation left for Damascus this morning to attend the Arab Industrial Development Organization's ministerial council meeting and the sixth Arab industrial development conference, both of which will be held in Damascus 20-25 October 1984.

Prime Minister Begins Official Visit to Japan

For Japabese reportage of the official 4-day visit to Japan of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, including his meetings with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, see the Japan section of the 19 October Asia & Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers: Offensive Continues, 300 Moroccan Casualties

LD181935 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Western Sahara — The great Maghreb offensive continues today, Thursday, Mr (Omar Hadrami) has told APS, one of the stages of which is the destruction of the defensive wall protecting the important Moroccan military base of Zag, in southern Morocco. The Saharan fighters, says Mr (Hadrami), a member of the Polisario Front Politburo, are at the moment launching heavy attacks against very heavy Moroccan reinforcements rushed in from Bu Craa and Amgala. The operation against Zag, one of the key bases of the military system of the Moroccan occupation, was launched last Saturday at dawn between Smul Niran and (El Jachbi Sakhli) to the southwest of Zag. Since the first assaults, the Moroccan Army has lost more than 300 soldiers and a considerable quantity of war materials, including several ultra-modern armored combat vehicles.

CHAD

First French Operational Units Start Withdrawal

AB181538 Paris AFP in French 1511 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 Oct (AFP) — The first operational French military units — about two companies, that is about 320 soldiers — of the Manta operation to evacuate Chad left that country for Cameroon within the past few days, it was learned today from a very reliable source in Ndjamena.

Questioned by AFP, the spokesman of the 3,000-man French contingent confirmed the withdrawal, saying that "the first movements of the operation units toward Cameroon have begun." He declined, however, to give any further information on the strength or the dates of the withdrawal.

According to witnesses, convoys of French soldiers crossed the Chari, a river which separates Cameroon from Chad, on 11, 14, and 17 October. It will be recalled that a first French contingent returned to Paris on 8 October, but it was a 150-man detachment whose mission had come to an end. They were received on arrival in Paris by French Defense Minister Charles Hernu.

GUNT Holds Session on Brazzaville Meeting on Chad

AB181855 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] This weekend will be an important one because a meeting will begin in Brazzaville on Saturday in preparation for the conference on reconciliation and peace in Chad. On the eve of this meeting, the chairman of the National Liberation Council [CNL] and president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], Goukouni Oueddei, presided over a working session in Fada attended by GUNT and CNL members. One item was on the agenda: preparations for the GUNT-FAN preliminary meeting. It must be said that the GUNT delegation was due to leave Fada today, 18 October.

Bardai Denounces Ndjamena's 'Whimsical Demands'

AB182113 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] In Brazzaville, the Congolese minister of foreign affairs has announced that all parties concerned have agreed to the holding of a preparatory meeting on 20 October. On the side of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], Comrade Yacoub, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, gave assurances at his recent press conference in Paris that the GUNT posed no precondition for the opening of the meeting among Chadians. Similarly, it will not allow the other side to pose a precondition.

But Ndjamena has continued with its higher-bid language. After a marathon meeting lasting (?8 and 1/2) hours, the Ndjamena clique stated pretentiously that it agreed to meet — as a government — with the opposition group. As can be seen, the power-hungry clique in Ndjamena has not departed from its whimsical demands in the area of protocol which caused the failure of the Addis Ababa conference in January 1984. In this connection, we will recall that at the same press conference in the French capital, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation said in reply to a question by a French colleague that if the GUNT were to recognize Hissein Habre as president, it would be useless to go to Brazzaville. He said it would simply go directly to Ndjamena in that case.

In fact, the FAN position is not new. It has always been opposed to a negotiated settlement for the Chadian conflict and has therefore resorted to repeated dilatory maneuvers. We still remember its unfavorable response to the appeal made by the bureau of the 19th OAU summit in Addis Ababa. We also remember its rejection of the recommendations of the Brazzaville mini-summit of the heads of state of central Africa held in the presence of current OAU Chairman Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam.

In its dishonest attempt to misrepresent the real cause of the Chadian conflict and to make it a mere Libya-Chad border dispute, the Ndjamena puppet group systematically wrecked all commendable attempts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Chadian crisis. It was only after the Franco-African Vittel summit and the pressure applied by some African heads of state that the leader of the Ndjamena clique agreed to the principle of opening a dialogue between Chadians.

Bardai Skeptical of Ndjamena Peace Intentions

AB182140 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The Ndjamena group, which is losing ground, is not willing to agree to a political solution to the Chadian tragedy as it claims. On the contrary, it is leaving no stone unturned in order to fill the military vacuum left by the French and Zairian troops.

It is against this background that we must understand the moves of the Ndjamena clique, which is in despair. Among other things, it has signed a military agreement with Egypt and strengthened the Ndjamena-Cairo treason axis. Both moves came just a few days before a U.S. envoy arrived in Ndjamena on a visit. This is evidence that the Ndjamena traitors, who have been disappointed by their French protectors, are now seeking closer ties with the Israel-Egypt-U.S. camp.

Finally, whenever the Ndjamena militarist group speaks of peace in a forced language, it devotes its actual effort to a different thing. The Franceville experience is still vivid in our memories and it demands increased vigilance on our part so that, if the need arises, we will return a more forceful blow to any blow by the group.

Benin, Togo, Ghana Draft Security Agreement
AB181815 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Nigeria and the Republics of Benin, Ghana, and Togo have drafted three documents aimed at strengthening cooperation and security within their subregion. The documents are on extradition treaty, police cooperation, and customs. This was announced by the Togolese foreign minister, Mr Amegah, while addressing the second meeting of internal and external affairs ministers of the four countries in Lome. The minister thanked experts who prepared the document and he hoped that the final copies would be ratified by the heads of state.

Officials from the Ministry of Justice, Immigration, Police, and Customs of the four countries are also attending the 2-day conference. The first meeting, held in Lome last August, discussed currency and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and the activities of illegal aliens. Nigeria's delegation to the meeting is led by the minister of internal affairs, Brigadier Mohamed Magoro.

BURKINA

Entire Presidential Press Staff Suspended
AB190825 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0630 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met yesterday Wednesday, 17 October, under the chairmanship of Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution of Burkina Faso and head of government. During the meeting, the council devoted most of its deliberations to: ways of making cities and towns cleaner and more beautiful; a report on missions of various ministers; as well as the appointment of some senior civil servants, the lifting of the suspension imposed on some civil servants, and the suspension or dismissal of others.

Concerning suspension, the entire presidential press staff — Jean Hubert Bazie, Borem Sige, Daniel Tapsoba, Dabouet Bessia, Barra Abdoulaye — are suspended from the civil service for bad handling of their professional work. Furthermore, these staff members, whose duty it is to inform but who did not see the necessity of acquiring radio sets, will have to acquire radio sets at their own expense.

GUINEA

DPRK Delegation Arrives To Discuss Cooperation
AB180915 Conakry Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] A DPRK official delegation led by Vice President Yi Chong-ok arrived in Conakry this afternoon. The delegation was welcomed on arrival at the Gbessia International Airport by Prime Minister Colonel Diara Traore, along with members of the Military Committee for National Salvation and of the government.

During its stay in Guinea, the DPRK delegation will discuss with their Guinean counterparts issues of common interest and seek ways to broaden and develop relations between the two countries. The DPRK delegation will also go to Kindia, where they will visit the Kilissi Research Center and the (Ninirhali Condeto Camara) Institute.

Briefs

FRG Financial Aid — The annual Guinea-FRG intergovernmental negotiations ended at the Palace of Nations today after 3 days of deliberations. The Guinean delegation to these talks was led by Richard Haba, minister of economic and financial affairs and acting minister of cooperation, and Henrik (Noteropot), head of the West African Division of the Ministry of Cooperation, led the FRG delegation. For 3 days, the Guinean and German delegations examined the various fields in which FRG aid to Guinea will be needed. The fields to benefit from this aid are energy, health, agriculture, posts and telecommunications, radio, and television. For this purpose, the FRG Government is providing Guinea with DM27 million. [Excerpt] [*Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 18 Oct 84 AB*]

IVORY COAST

Diplomatic Relations To Be Established With San Marino
AB181645 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ivory Coast has just added a new country to its list of friendly countries. It is the Republic of San Marino. It has decided to establish diplomatic relations with San Marino. San Marino, our new partner, is a country that is different from most in several ways. San Marino is a landlocked, independent republic in Italy. It is situated near Florence on the Adriatic coast. It is a very small country that is 61 square kilometers wide, that is the equivalent of the town of Bingerville, with a population of about 20,000 inhabitants.

San Marino is the oldest republican state in Europe. It has been autonomous since the 9th century, that is for over 1,000 years. It is governed by captain regents who are given 6-month terms of office by the Grand and General Council, consisting of 60 members who are elected for 5-year terms. The economy of this micro-state is mainly based on cereal cultivation, wine, tourism, and on a very old traditional industry — stone sculpture.

LIBERIA

Sawyer Denies Knowledge Of Coup Plot
AB180855 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0655 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The former dean of Liberia College at the University of Liberia, Dr Amos Sawyer, has denied any knowledge of the coup plot as recently alleged by the Government of Liberia. Yesterday's edition of the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper quotes Dr Sawyer as saying that his recent detention without charge and

subsequent release after some weeks show the weakness of character in many men. He told the paper that at no time had he and any of those accused in connection with the alleged coup plot discussed matters relating to the alleged plot.

The denial of the coup plot by Dr Sawyer comes 5 days following an Executive Mansion release at which time the head of state emphasized that all who feel that there was never a case against those released should be brave enough and honest to themselves to come forward and charge the government on the issue.

Minister Reacts to Reports on Closure of Law Court
AB180856 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0655 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Justice Minister Jenkins Scott yesterday said that it is not his prerogative to open or close down a law court. He said only the Interim National Assembly can exercise such a function. Minister Scott was reacting to recent news reports that he had threatened to close down the civil law court after the court held him in contempt. The justice minister was held in contempt for allegedly releasing two suspects detained by the court in connection with a $100,000 debt case without due notice to the court.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Mr Scott said the release of the accused was not intended to waive the charges against them. He, however, explained that as chief custodian of all prisons in the country, it is his duty to ensure that individuals are justly detained or imprisoned.

NIGERIA

Former Envoy to UK Reassigned to Ethiopia
AB182035 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, has approved the reassignment of Major General Halidu Hananiya as Nigeria's new ambassador to Ethiopia. Maj Gen Hananiya was until his reassignment Nigeria's high commissioner to the United Kingdom. The Ethiopian Government has accepted the appointment of Maj Gen Hananiya and he is expected to resume duty after the next summit meeting of the OAU in Addis Ababa. With the reassignment of Maj Gen Hananiya, the Federal Military Government expects the British Government to also reassign Mr Hamilton Whyte.

Commentary Supports SDAR Representation At OAU Summit
AB181150 Lagos International Service in English
0930 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Viewpoint]

[Text] It is not impossible or unlikely that since the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, SADR, announced its intention to attend next month's OAU summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, doubts might be raised in some quarters about the possibility of holding the summit. Such doubts may be arising from the previous experience of the OAU, which could not hold its 19th session in Tripoli in 1982, because of disargreement over the participation of the SDAR. But when the SDAR voluntarily decided to stay away, it became possible to reconvenue the 19th session at another venue.

The point, however, is that with its admission into the fold of the OAU earlier in 1982, SADR legally became a member of the organization. The Council of Ministers action was based on the legal requirement of a simple majority of OAU members supporting the candidature of SADR. And since that action has up till now not been revoked, SADR remains legally a member of the OAU.

But what is even more important is the fact that more members of the OAU have since accorded official recognition to SADR as a full-fledged state. The estimate in some quarters is that SADR now enjoys the support of about two-thirds of OAU membership. This is a practical situation which makes the question of the legitimacy of Sadr assuming a seat at the OAU summit an irrelevant issue. It is not enough any more to cause a serious division within the organization.

The OAU itself realizes that the only party that has created problems for it in solving the Western Sahara issue had been the Kingdom of Morocco. It was on this score that Nigeria recently withdrew from the OAU implementation committee on Western Sahara. Nigeria pointed out that the committee had become impotent because of the lack of cooperation from Morocco, which was vital to the implementation of its assignment.

The question now is whether the OAU can afford to succumb to the whims and caprices of one single state against the standpoint of the vast majority of its members. The choice is clear: The OAU should go ahead with the arrangement for its summit and other programs in the full knowledge that most of its members states are desirous that the continental organization [words indistinct] progress.

TOGO

Yugoslav Ambassador Received by Eyadema, Comments
AB181700 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the Republic of Togo, this morning at the presidential palace granted audience to His Excellency Radivoje Petkovic, the ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Togo. At the end of the presidential audience, Mr Petkovic expressed his satisfaction with the success of President Eyadema's recent visit to Yugoslavia.

[Begin Petkovic recording in English fading into French translation] I discussed with the president his recent visit to Yugoslavia, which was a successful one on both sides. Your president and our president, as well as the two delegations, held

identical views on international problems as well as on our bilateral relations. They also held identical views on nonalignment.

This visit greatly contributed to the strengthening of relations between our two countries. I can also tell you that all that is left to do now is to apply the decisions made in Belgrade. I would also like to tell you that a joint scientific and technical meeting will be held in Togo in order to strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

I also want to inform you that our foreign affairs minister will visit some countries of the region in February. And, naturally, he will visit Togo in order to continue the discussions between our two countries as well as to discuss international problems, especially nonalignment. As you know, there will be a nonaligned meeting in Angola in September. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Visiting Congo Minister

MB182020 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, this afternoon received in Luanda a message from the Congolese head of state, Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The bearer of the message was Ossebi Douniam, the Congolese minister of industry and fisheries, in a ceremony which was also attended by Emilio Jose Guerra de Carvalho, the Angolan minister of fisheries, and Anatole Kounkou, the Congolese ambassador to Angola.

The Congolese minister of industry and fisheries was yesterday received in audience by Comrade Carlos Fernandes, the secretary of state for cooperation, with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation issues.

LESOTHO

Minister Cites Improved Relations with RSA

MB181652 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of information and broadcasting, the Honorable D.T. Sixishe, told a meeting at Thaba Bosiu that recent developments indicate a significant improvement of relations between Lesotho and South Africa. He said that, should the improved relations continue, hardships previously experienced by Basotho at border posts, it is hoped, would now disappear.

The minister said that improvement of relations without conditions, particularly without the signing of any agreement, would create the necessary confidence between the two countries. He said these developments were a confirmation of policies of the prime minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, of maintaining peaceful relations with all her neighbors. The policy, he said, was central to the policy of the Basotho National Party.

MALAWI

Draft Mozambique Cooperation Accord Complete

MB190714 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] A senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs has said that the Mozambican and Malawi officials meeting in Blantyre have successfully completed drawing up a draft protocol of understanding for approval by the two heads of state. The official told the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation that the agreement calls for the strengthening and exploration of new areas of joint cooperation between Mozambique and Malawi. The official said, in addition to the main document, the two countries' officials have discussed specific areas for joint cooperation such as transport, railways, and tourism.

MOZAMBIQUE

Cabinet Urges Rapid Implementation of Pretoria Pact

MB181818 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The Mozambican Cabinet has called for a rapid and unambiguous implementation of the Pretoria declaration, which aims at ending armed banditry in Mozambique. A communique released at the end of a 2-day Cabinet meeting in Maputo says that the victories achieved by the Armed Forces against the bandits have created favorable conditions for the rapid reestablishment of peace through diplomatic means. Conditions are also favorable for the reintegration of former bandits into society.

The communique said the Pretoria Declaration is a step forward in attempts to end violence in Mozambique and expresses appreciation of the South African Government's decision to play an active role in the search for peace.

Rapid implementation of the declaration would allow the objectives of the Nkomati Accord to be achieved, the communique adds. The Cabinet expresses its approval of the work carried out by the Mozambican delegation in talks aimed at implementing the declaration, and gave them a mandate to continue with their work in the joint commission. The communique concludes with reaffirmation of Mozambique's commitment to the spirit and letter of the Nkomati Accord.

FRG Official Expresses Support for Peace Plans

MB181950 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ambassador (Hans Gunter Sulimer), FRG assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said in Maputo today that the FRG is ready to help Mozambique reintegrate the armed bandits. The diplomat was speaking at the end of a 4-day visit to our country during which he familiarized himself with the current situation in various areas, particularly in Inhambane Province, which has been severely hit by the drought and where the FRG Red Cross has been helping drought victims:

[Begin (Sulimer) recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] Today is the last day of my official visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique. Soon, I shall leave your country. I have been deeply impressed by the colorful and delightful hospitality of the Mozambique Government and people, to whom I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

During my stay in Mozambique I was convinced that the Mozambique Government follows a policy of peace. Your work has been aimed at rehabilitating the country. I was also convinced that your country needs urgent assistance to face the current economic difficulties. I would like to assure you that the FRG Government supports Mozambique in all three points. [sentence as heard]

It is our fervent desire that soon all armed activity within Mozambique will cease. My government has repeatedly shown

its support for your peace policy. We seriously believe that the Nkomati Accord will serve as a basis for peaceful neighborly relations while preserving the independence of the parties involved, and that the causes for the tensions that exist in southern Africa will be eliminated step by step. [end recording]

Guebuza Sworn In as Minister in Presidency

MB180940 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday swore in Lieutenant General Armando Guebuza as minister in the presidency. The ceremony was held at the office of the presidency of the republic before several high-ranking party and government officials. The appointment of Lt Gen Armando Guebuza as minister in the presidency took place on 28 September through a presidential decree.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Statements, Commentary on Anderson Comments

Anderson Spreading 'False Propaganda'

MB190623 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the envoy of the British Labor Party, Mr Donald Anderson, used his visit to South Africa to disseminate false propaganda overseas. Speaking at Boksburg, Mr Botha said that by his behavior, Mr Anderson had shown the stuff of which South Africa's foreign critics were made.

Mr Botha reiterated that the government would definitely not return the four South Africans for their trial in Coventry. He said it was high time that the outside world realized that the future of South Africa would not be determined by overloaded emotional statements, but by hard work, cooperation, and the ability to adjust to new challenges.

Mr Botha said that South Africa's neighbors, such as Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho, realized that the future of the subcontinent was not to be found overseas but that southern Africa should decide its own future in a responsible way.

Earlier Mr Botha summoned the new British ambassador to South Africa, Mr Patrick Moberly, to his office to put certain points of view to him on the Durban Consulate issue and on the four men wanted to appear in a British court on charges of illegal arms trading. Mr Botha said in response to enquiries that he did not want to disclose further details.

Talks With UK Envoy

MB181930 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1923 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Oct 18, SAPA — Britain's ambassador to South Africa, Mr Patrick Moberly, was today called to the offices of Mr Pik Botha, the foreign minister, for discussions, Mr Botha said in a statement tonight. Mr Moberly has not yet presented his credentials to the state president and is thus not yet officially the British ambassador, but is the ambassador-designate.

Mr Botha's statement said (full text):

"The minister of foreign affairs confirms that South Africa's ambassador in London, Dr Denis Worral, was today called in by the British under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr Malcolm Rifkind. On this occasion certain viewpoints of the British Government concerning the consulate issue and the position of the four South Africans were conveyed to Dr Worral.

"The foreign minister this afternoon invited the new British ambassador, Mr Patrick Moberly, to his office in Pretoria and asked him to convey to his government certain important standpoints of the S.A. Government concerning these issues. The minister is not prepared to make public further particulars concerning the discussions."

Findings Called 'Totally Warped'

MB181620 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Station commentary: "Mr Anderson's Visit to South Africa"]

[Text] The British Labor Party spokesman on Southern African affairs, Mr Donald Anderson, has returned to Britain with a totally warped picture of the situation in South Africa — and that of his own choosing.

When Mr Anderson arrived in South Africa, he declared that he had come to visit the country on a fact-finding mission. However, from the outset it became clear that Mr Anderson would be highly selective about his facts. He was met at the airport by the United Democratic Front [UDF], an organization which opposes the government and which is dedicated to the use of extraparliamentary methods to bring about change in the country. By his own admission, the UDF organized Mr Anderson's entire program, and the publicity afforded him.

Mr Anderson saw and spoke only to opponents of the government, and did not bother to have a single interview with members of the government or the security authorities in the country, whom he so bitterly criticized.

There are several factors regarding the Anderson visit which the international community should be aware of. First of all, Mr Anderson went out of his way to criticize the level of freedom in South Africa, but there is hardly any African state where he would have had the freedom he enjoyed in this country. Not only was Mr Anderson permitted to visit the three detainees who left the British consulate a few days ago, but he visited several black townships of the UDF's choice. He also held a multitude of news conferences, all of which made headline news in South Africa. Every single derogatory statement made by Mr Anderson was widely publicized in South Africa and abroad.

As a contrast, note for example what happened in Zimbabwe at the height of the fighting between Mr Joshua Nkomo's minority Matabele and the government forces of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. While the notorious Fifth Brigade committed atrocities in Matabeleland, local and foreign newsmen were kept at a strict distance. Even today, no one knows the full story of the Fifth Brigade brutality. Claims by Mr Nkomo are ignored or dismissed, and all that is really evident is that the Matabele have been effectively and brutally suppressed.

But Mr Anderson was not in Zimbabwe at that time accusing the Mugabe government of being an 'evil' regime, nor was he there speaking up in defense of former Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa when he was in detention without trial. In the final analysis, the only reason why considerable freedom does exist in South Africa is because this country has the confidence to bear the consequences.

Tutu Urges Conference, International Pressure on RSA

MB181700 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1448 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 18, SAPA — Nobel Peace Prize Laurate, Bishop Desmond Tutu, today reaffirmed his support for the aims of the banned African National Congress. He also called for a conference of all South Africa's "authentic leaders," such as the imprisoned ANC Leader Nelson Mandela, adding that the government needed to be "persuaded through peaceful means to come to the conference table."

Addressing members of the media after returning from New York following the announcement of his winning the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, the leader of the South African Council of Churches said: "I support the ANC in its declared aims, but I do not support them in their methods. If the government wants to charge somebody for supporting the ANC, they must charge me and not the SACC." Bishop Tutu said the government had continually waged a campaign against the SACC in the only way they knew how — "by vilification and innuendo."

After spending two years and R400,000 on the Eloff Commission into the activities of the SACC, the government had found out "absolutely nothing."

Bishop Tutu accused the government of being unable to "handle the truth," and referred specifically to allegations made by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, at a function at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg. "The state president lied when he said we (the SACC) received money for subversive purposes. I challenged him to prove that we are in any way a subversive organisation, but all the government can do is discredit us through vilification and innuendo."

Bishop Tutu admitted that he had earlier praised Botha, when he was prime minister, for his courage in instigating the new constitution. He added, however: "It is very sad he initiated something with such great potential, but which still excludes blacks. All he (Mr Botha) is doing is prolonging the day when true liberation will come," the Nobel Prize winner said.

Bishop Tutu, who described himself as a "prisoner of hope," said it was futile for the government to seek detente outside South Africa instead of talking to the "real leaders" inside the country. He referred specifically to Nelson Mandela.

Asked whether, in the light of mounting township unrest, he still had any hope for peaceful change in South Africa, Bishop Tutu said it was impossible "if people move to the conference table. However, I do not think the government will do this voluntarily. They will have to be persuaded."

To this end, Bishop Tutu said he was encouraging international pressure on the government. "But if this does not work, something will happen. I give it a name — bloodbath."

Questioned on his reported backing of the disinvestment campaign, Bishop Tutu replied: "When did I campaign for disinvestment? I have called for pressure, but I didn't put any strict conditions on that pressure, except that it should work to dismantle apartheid," he said.

Envoy to UN Says Credibility Not Harmed

MB181452 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans
1400 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The South African ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, says South Africa's diplomatic credibility has not been damaged by its refusal to return the four South Africans to Britain to stand trial on charges of illegal arms trading. Mr von Schirnding, who is on a short visit to South Africa, said there was understanding for the retaliatory measure after the refusal by Britain to eject the activists from its consulate in Durban or to allow South African officials to enter its consular offices.

He said it was clear from talks with diplomats at the United Nations that in terms of international law, it was unlawful to allow people to seek refuge or asylum in a consulate. Mr Von Schirnding said some of South Africa's enemies condemned the country for linking the two issues, but, in general,it was understood that South Africa had been forced to take the retaliatory measure. He said that apart from the legality of the South African action it was realized that South Africa's honor was involved.

Former Ciskei Official Gets Asylum in Transkei

MB181057 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1027 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Umtata, Oct 18, SAPA — The former vice-president of Ciskei, the Rev W.M. Xaba, who fled the Ciskei three weeks ago to seek refuge in Transkei, has been granted political asylum by the Transkei Government. Mr Xaba, who was removed from his vice-president's post after being expelled from the Ciskei, has been living at the Ncambedlana farm of the prime minister, Chief George Matanzima, since his arrival in the country. His wife arrived with him.

Last night he said he had left Ciskei because he believed his life to be in danger. He said he had received an anonymous call that he would the "muzorewa" of the Ciskei.

At the time of his arrival last month Mr Xaba said he had come to the Transkei to thank both the state president and the prime minister for giving his son, Lieutenant Mbulelo Xaba, employment in the Transkei Defence Force. Lt Xaba was previously with the Ciskei Army before he fled to Transkei earlier this year.

Mr Xaba is the second top Ciskei official to be granted asylum in Transkei, the first being former Ciskei minister of transport, Mr Namba Sebe, who was given permanent residence in the country in August this year. The office of the Department of Interior here had confirmed that Mr Xaba had been granted a residence permit.

Unconfirmed reports have said three top Ciskei security policemen had already been placed with the Transkei police force. They are believed to be Brigadier Harvey Tamsanqa, Brigadier Ntwasa, and Captain Dlabantu.

Brig Tamsanga was the centre of evidence during the treason trial of Ciskei's chief combined forces, General Charles Sebe, who is serving 12 years imprisonment. Gen Sebe was accused, among other things, of having plotted to release by force Brig Tamsanqa, who was in detention. Capt Dlabantu recently had charges withdrawn against him of allegedly insulting the dignity of the Ciskei president.

Mr Xaba said in an interview he had decided to make Transkei his permanent home as he had been harassed and treated "very badly" by the Ciskei police since July last year. "I believed my life was in danger because of police harassment, which had played a psychological war on my nerves. At a prayer meeting at Ntabakandoda in June this year, the Ciskei police came to me and said my presence was undesirable in the country. They said these were orders from above, which was obviously president Lennox Sebe," he said.

Media Council Reacts To Complaint by SABC Chief

MB181716 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The registrar of the South African Media Council has reacted to the formal complaint made by the director general of the South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC], Mr Riaan Eksteen, about the finding of a special committee of the media council concerning points of policy raised by Mr Eksteen when he addressed the Pretoria Press Club (as heard] on 24 August. In his objection, Mr Eksteen said that the committee of the media council had come to its conclusions, on the basis of unfounded deductions and selective and incomplete quotations, that the SABC did not reflect certain kinds of news.

In its reaction, the media council emphasizes that the statement issued by the committee represented merely a viewpoint, and was not in any sense a judgment. It points out that in giving its opinion, the committee said the SABC had a unique status and a special responsibility in that the principles enumerated by Mr Eksteen were sound, and that in the application of these principles, matters of common concern to all the people of South Africa should not be excluded. The media council added that the director general of the SABC had exercised his unquestioned right to object to this point of view.

Commentary Discusses Relocation of Black Areas

MB181356 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Station commentary: "Consolidation and Cooperation"]

[Text] The South African Government has announced plans affecting the consolidation of the independent states of Bophuthatswana, and three self-governing states within the borders of greater South Africa. Thousands of hectares of additional land are to be included in the boundaries of these four states. In some cases there will be an exchange of land between South Africa and the four states, and this will mean that some people, whites as well as blacks, will have to move from one area to another. The plan forms part of the overall plan for the establishment of own national states within the borders of greater South Africa.

In 1910, when the British transferred power to the whites of South Africa, excluding Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland, no provision was made for the political rights of the black nations within South Africa's borders. Over the years whites gave more attention to the yearning of the black nations for political rights and self-determination in areas they traditionally occupy.

In 1959, the whites of South Africa became the first ruling nation in the world to freely give land to other nations within the borders of their country. This has been done over the past 25 years in an orderly and cooperative manner, without any blood being shed in the process. The latest land consolidation proposals are part of this process.

Announcing the proposals, the minister of cooperation and development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, emphasized that three important principles were being adhered to in drawing up the proposals. First, the leaders of the black states involved and representatives of the South African Goverment worked together in proposing new boundaries.

Second, efforts were made to ensure that borders were drawn in such a way to facilitate easy control and good neighborliness. The third guideline was that the redrawing of borders would necessitate the resettlement of as few people as possible.

The manner in which this process is continuing is proof of the cooperation and goodwill that exists between South Africa and the various black nations within its borders. It is these good relations that radical elements and revolutionary forces are trying to destroy. They cannot and will not be allowed to succeed.

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Discusses Ties With RSA

MB181800 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, this afternoon told the Australian high commissioner to Swaziland, Mr M.E. Lyon, that Swaziland cannot afford to support economic sanctions against the RSA. The foreign minister said this when the Australian high commissioner to Swaziland called on him to bid him farewell at the end of his assignment to Swaziland.

Mr Mhambi Mnisi told the Australian envoy that what happens in the RSA affects Swaziland politically and economically. The foreign minister said Swaziland can only talk to South Africa to change her apartheid policies, which he said were not palatable to the rest of the world. Talking about economic sanctions against South Africa, Mr Mnisi said: For Swaziland to support them could be economic suicide, because her economy is linked to that of South Africa.

Turning to the land issue, the foreign minister told the Australian envoy that Swaziland would continue knocking at the door of Pretoria. He categorically ruled out that Swaziland should deal directly with the so-called homelands, as Pretoria has suggested.

Talking about the relations between the ANC leadership and the Swazi Government, Mr Mnisi said Swaziland was a signatory to the Geneva Convention and, as such, will always give asylum to genuine refugees, but cannot allow the country to be used as a springboard for attacks against South Africa, because she believed in good coexistence with her neighbors. In conclusion, the foreign minister appealed to the Australian envoy to invite Australian businessmen to come and invest in Swaziland.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Denies Aid Reason for Talks With RSA

MB181850 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The president, Dr Kaunda, has dismissed any suggestions or claims that his dialogue with South African leaders in search of solutions to the troubles of the region were based on seeking economic aid. Dr Kaunda said in an interview with Radio Zambia that he never discussed bilateral issues with South African leaders, as all his meetings with them have centered on the liberation process.

He said that Zambia has done a lot to try and defuse the explosive situation in the region through honest and truthful methods. The president said that all he did with the South African leaders he met, including John Vorster and Pieter Botha, as well as former Rhodesian rebel leader Ian Smith, was to discuss either liberation or removal of the inhuman apartheid system in South Africa. Dr Kaunda said the 24 million black souls being suppressed by four million whites in South Africa will one day be free, because no soul can be suppressed forever.

3 Detainees Pardoned To Mark Independence

MB181900 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has released three detainees from detention as part of the tripartite anniversary celebrations. [Words indistinct] Kitwe residents who thronged the Jacaranda Lodge, Kitwe, the president said he had signed revocation orders (?for) three Zambians who were currently detained. He did not name the detainees. He said he was releasing the three people from detention as part of the celebrations because he does not work on hatred. He signed the revocation orders yesterday, and the three will be released either tomorrow or the next day.

ZIMBABWE

Unions Pass No Confidence Vote on ZCTU Leaders

MB181418 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ten unions affiliated to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions [ZCTU] have passed a vote of no confidence in the leadership of the organization and have called for an emergency national congress to revamp the ZCTU. A spokesman for the unions said yesterday that a four-man committee has been appointed to mobilize other unions to support their action, and a meeting is expected to be held on Saturday to speed up the call for an emergency congress.

There are (?42) unions affiliated to the ZCTU. The spokesman said the unions are reacting to the concern expressed last week by the minister of labor, manpower planning, and social welfare, Comrade Frederick Shava, on the lack of progress in the affairs of the organization. The unions said the ZCTU leadership has failed to honor the organization's draft constitution and the [word indistinct] conciliation act. They accuse the leadership of creating confusion and disturbances in some unions by holding meetings with the [word indistinct] industries without the knowledge or participation of legal representatives of those industries.

The unions, which met in Harare yesterday, were the Zimbabwe Radio and Television Workers' Union, the National Union of the Clothing Industry, the Zimbabwe (?Service) and Chemical Workers' Union, the National Engineering Workers' Union, the Zimbabwe Motor Industry Workers' Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the General Agricultural and Plantation Workers' Union, the United Food and Allied Workers Union of Zimbabwe, the Railway Associated Workers' Union, and the Air Transport Workers' Union.

ZAPU Official Discusses Support for 1-Party State

MB181828 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The new secretary general of ZAPU, Comrade Cephas Msipa, says his party is fully committed to the idea of a one-party state in Zimbabwe, as long as such a system comes through consultation. Comrade Msipa told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation today that his new role will be to foster unity between ZANU and ZAPU, and to improve relations between the two parties.

Comrade Msipa, who is also the minister of state for water resources and development, said he believed that a one-party state can only come about in Zimbabwe after uniting the people. Yesterday the ZAPU president, Dr Joshua Nkomo, cancelled a resolution supporting a one-party state and rejected it outright. However, Comrade Msipa said today that the resolution supporting a one-party state stands.

2.2 Million Register To Vote in Coming Elections

MB181442 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The registrar general, Comrade Tobaiwa Mudede, says about 2.2 million Zimbabweans have registered as voters so far. In an interview with *THE HERALD* yesterday, Comrade Mudede said more people have registered during the [word indistinct] exercise, and the issuing of identity cards has almost doubled from 160,000 to 300,000 a month. He said the registration of voters and the issuing of identity cards has been intensified to ensure that all eligible Zimbabweans vote in the general elections next year. Comrade Mudede also said more than 26,900 have registered on the white roll.

Ex-ZIPRA Man To Hang for Senator's Murder

MB180945 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] A former ZIPRA combatant, Phineas Ndlovu, is to hang for the murder of Senator Paul Savage, his daughter, Coleen, and their visiting British friend, Sandra (Bennett), last year.

Ndlovu was also sentenced to death for the murder of (Atilia Dube), who was shot dead at her home in the Mutalale communal land in April last year.

Mr Justice Barnabas (Samata) said Ndlovu had played a major role in the shootings, which he said had been premeditated.